

TECHNICAL REFERENCE · PRINT & KEEP

Caster Maintenance, Inspection & Failure Prevention

One-page quick reference · Full engineering guide + live tools at the QR codes below

Quick answer. A 90-day caster inspection program cuts unplanned failures by 80 to 90 percent and extends service life 60 to 120 percent versus run-to-failure replacement. Inspect kingpin play, axle wear, tread cupping, raceway looseness, and fastener torque each cycle. Unplanned caster failures cost 6 to 12 times the hardware price once downtime and labor are included.

The 90-Day Inspection Checklist

Check	What to Look For	Action
Wheel tread	Flat spots, cupping, chunking, debonding	Retire if any of 4 detected
Axle nut	Loose, missing, corroded	Torque to spec or replace
Kingpin bolt	Loose, stretched, corroded	Retire caster if loose (cannot restore geometry)
Swivel raceway	Roughness, gritty feel, axial play	Retire if play > 1/32"
Mounting bolts	Walked loose, corroded, sheared	Torque to spec; replace if stretched
Rig weld/forging	Cracks, bent fork, stretched rig	Retire immediately
Brake (if equipped)	Engages fully, holds, releases	Adjust or replace
Wheel bearings	Notchy rotation, lateral play, corrosion	Re-lube or replace

Lubrication Intervals and Grease Type

Component	Lube Interval	Grease Class	Notes
Sealed precision ball bearing	Never (sealed for life)	N/A	Replace bearing when worn
Open wheel bearing, light duty	6 months	NLGI #2 multi-purpose	Clean before regreasing
Open wheel bearing, heavy duty	3 months	NLGI #2 EP (extreme pressure)	More frequent in shock duty
Swivel raceway (zerk-fit)	3 months	NLGI #2 lithium	2-3 pumps; do not overfill
Food/washdown service	Per plant SOP	H1 NSF-registered grease	FDA-compliant only
High-temp service	Halve standard interval	High-temp synthetic	Grease thins at temp



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