

## Lift Chains

The life of lift chains on lift trucks can be prolonged completely with proper care and maintenance. Like for instance, correct lubrication is actually the most efficient method in order to extend the service capability of this part. It is vital to apply oil periodically utilizing a brush or whichever lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application must be adequate to be able to stop any rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration normally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this situation has occurred, it is very important to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

During lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur that can cause several parts to wear out sooner or later. When there is 3 percent elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to avoid the scary chance of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the manufacturer highly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear which elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring correct lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Usually, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens if the chain is loose and then suddenly a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. With no correct lubrication, in this particular case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation takes place, the lift chains need to be replaced right away. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs in order to ensure even wear.