PHILLIPS

TECH TIPS

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Is Your Stowage Doing More Damage Than Good?

With winter upon us, wet weather and de-ices are more prevalent than ever, which is the perfect storm (no pun intended) for corrosion build-up on a vehicle. While the electrical connections of a plug and socket union are a primary location for corrosion build-up, there is another place that could be doing more damage to these connections than one might think – the plug and gladhand stowage on the back of the cab. The design and maintenance of a plug and gladhand stowage unit can contribute to the condition of an electrical cable, for better or for worse.

Avoiding Trapped Debris

If a caddy does not have large enough openings at the bottom of the plug holder(s), water from rain and kick-up from sand, dust, and chemical deicers on the road can settle inside the plug holder. Without a proper outlet, the debris trapped at the bottom of the plug holder will make contact with the plug every time it's inserted for stowage, contributing to the possibility of corrosion. To allow debris to drain, look for stowage units with significant space for debris to exit, and regularly inspect and clean the inside of the plug holder to avoid build-up.

Angles Matter

Back of cab caddies that are non-metallic and angled will perform better than those that are straight and/or made of metal. Plug holders made from non-metallic materials are more durable and resistant to corrosion. Angled versions provide ease of use and help prevent cable damage. Additionally, common work-related injuries come from working in the area between the truck and trailer. When a plug holder is angled out, rather than straight up at a 90-degree angle, the operators can keep two feet on the ground when storing cables. Angled plug holders also prevent damage from occurring to electrical cables. Not only is the plug holder keeping the cables up off the deck plate, but the angle at which the plug is connected to the plug holder puts less strain and pressure on the cable at the back of the plug. Too much strain will eventually cause damage.

TIPS

- The design and maintenance of a plug and gladhand stowage unit matters.
- Maintain your plug stowage by cleaning it every 6 months or more frequently where needed.
- Use an angled caddy with large drain holes for best results.
- Non-metallic stowage units are more durable and resist corrosion.

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