

SECTION ONE – DEMOUNTABLE POD SYSTEMS (EXTENDING LEG TYPE) – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

To operate the equipment in a safe manner, one other member of the service must be present to assist the operator when mounting/demounting operations are carried out. The pod units currently in use are fitted with different jacking systems, therefore prior to use, personnel should confirm the type of operation for the jacking system on the unit being carried and ensure the following procedures are adhered to during operation:

SITING

Select a suitable site convenient to the incident, firm and level if possible, clear of loose material, rubble etc; check for overhead obstructions such as cables, tree branches, overhanging parts of buildings etc; that may come into contact with the Unit when it is being raised during the demount and mount operation. It is important to position the Unit so that the jacks will not come into contact with inspection or drain covers.

Points for consideration:

- must be on solid ground;
- (where possible) near to 13 amp mains electrical;
- room for inflatable shelter;
- open doors and hatches will not interfere with passing vehicles.

When in position, ensure that Prime Mover is stationary with parking brake applied.

PREPARING TO DEMOUNT UNIT

- Disconnect vehicle power cable between Prime Mover and Unit.
- Open both front and rear (if fitted) jack locker doors fully.
- Unlock the four clamps securing the Unit to the Prime Mover chassis.

UNIT POWER CABLE

Power cable operation is different for each unit currently in use as follows:-

Emergency Feeding Unit

Connect Unit power cable, (long lead) one end into twin socket in battery compartment located nearside rear of Unit, the other end into twin socket located adjacent to control socket on nearside front of Unit.

Incident Support Unit

Connect Unit power cable, (short lead) one end into twin socket in battery compartment located nearside front of Unit, the other end into twin socket located adjacent to control socket on nearside front of the Unit.

Technical Support Unit

Unit power cable is hard wired on this Unit - no action necessary.

FAILURE OF DEMOUNT POWER

In the event of low battery level or total failure of the demount battery supply, it will be necessary to use the battery supply from the Prime Mover. Connect one end of the long lead into the twin socket located at the rear of the Prime Mover, the other end into the twin socket located adjacent to the control socket on the nearside front of Demount Unit.

Connect hand control into receptive socket on the nearside of the Unit, ensuring that the keyway is engaged correctly.

TO DEMOUNT UNIT

- Check that both front and rear (if fitted) jack doors are open.
- Press 'JACKS OUT'. The button must remain pressed until both front jacks are fully out and both rear jacks on Units so designed. This circuit is not flow divided, therefore the leg with the least line of resistance will traverse out first. A noticeable change in the tone of the pump will be heard when leg rams are at their full extent, check visually to confirm.
- Press 'JACKS DOWN'. The button must remain pressed until the jacks are at their full extent. This will enable the flow divider valve to correct itself of any error during the lift sequence.
- Ensure that the hand control and the power cable are clear of the vehicle wheels, disconnect if necessary, before slowly driving the Prime Mover from under the Unit.
- Press 'JACKS UP'. The Unit body can then be lowered to ground level. Ensure jacks are fully retracted - again, a change in the pump running noise will be heard.
- Press 'JACK IN'. This will retract the two front jack rams inboard and both rear jack rams if so designed.
- Disconnect hand control and Unit power cable and stow in locker. Close and secure both front and rear (if fitted) jack locker doors.

- Select 'MAINS' on the three position switch located in the battery locker.

AUTOMATIC LEVELLING DEVICE

It is often a requirement to position the Unit on ground which is not level. Should this be the case, a facility for levelling has been fitted and must be operated as follows:

Two galvanised steel levers are positioned adjacent to the hand control plug, one lever operating the two back legs and the other operating the two front. These levers are not shut-off valves for the front and rear legs, but chokes, and their function is to throttle progress of the legs when lifting and lowering. For example, if the site requires the front legs to be longer than the back, then the Unit is demounted from the chassis in exactly the same way as described in the Demounting Procedure. The Unit is then lowered to the floor in line with the gradient of the ground.

The rear legs lever would then be moved 90 degrees into the choked position and 'JACKS DOWN' selected on the hand control. This will have the effect of increasing the speed of lift of the front legs. When the angle of the bottom rail of the Unit is at the level required to site the Unit, stop the lift, re-engage the rear leg throttle lever to its normal operating position and lower the Unit until the back of the Unit meets ground level - the Unit will then be able to operate in a level condition on unlevel ground.

If the gradient of the ground runs the opposite way, then the same procedure must be followed using the front leg lever to increase the speed and lift of the rear legs.

For levelling purposes, it is not necessary to extend the jacks from their closed position since they may cause an obstruction when the Unit is sited.

However, it is essential that, prior to remounting the Unit to the chassis, the lift jacks are fully retracted and front jacks and rear jacks if so designed are out prior to lift.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions could cause considerable damage to the equipment.

TO REMOUNT UNIT

- Select 'VEHICLE' on the three position switch.
- Open front and rear (if fitted) jack doors fully.
- Connect hand control and Unit power cable as described in 4 above
- Press 'JACKS OUT' - ensure fully out.
- Press 'JACKS DOWN' - body will raise - ensure full extension of jacks.

- Reverse Prime Mover under Unit, making sure that the chassis is relatively in line with the Unit prior to lowering. Ensure hand control and power cables are clear of vehicle wheels.
- Press 'JACKS UP' - body will lower onto chassis - ensure that jacks are fully retracted.
- Press 'JACKS IN' - ensure jack rams are fully housed. Depress 'JACKS OUT' button momentarily only, this will ensure that any residual hydraulic pressure is removed from the system. Close and secure jack locker doors.
- Disconnect hand control and Unit power cable, stow in locker.
- Operate the four clamps to the lock position, to secure Unit to Prime Mover.

On all occasions prior to moving the vehicle it is vitally important that these four locking clamps are checked to confirm that they are in the locked position.

- Connect power cable from Prime Mover to Unit.
- FINALLY, CHECK ROUND VEHICLE BEFORE MOVING OFF.