



PREMIER MANUFACTURING CO.

THE FIRST NAME IN QUALITY COUPLINGS

Installation, Inspection, Operation & Maintenance Guide



238DB, 245DB & 245DB-3 Bolt-On Drawbar Eyes

IMPORTANT

Read these instructions completely before installing, using or attempting to repair this product. If you have any questions, call Premier at (800) 255-5387 or (503) 234-9202.

Selecting The Right Equipment

Whatever your application, selecting the proper equipment for the job is very important. Proper selection along with regular inspection and maintenance will help keep operating costs minimal while providing long life to each component. Below are general guidelines for selecting Premier Couplings and Drawbar Eyes. If you feel that your application is unique, please give Premier a call so that we may help you through the selection process.

Follow these four steps to ensure proper selection of Premier Couplings and Drawbar Eyes.



Step 1: Determine "Gross Trailer(s) Weight"

"Gross Trailer(s) Weight" is usually determined by the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). This information is attached to the trailer by the trailer manufacturer.

Double Trailer Configuration



Example only, each application may vary and should be considered unique.

For "Double Trailer" configurations, only the rear trailer is considered when selecting your Premier Coupling or Drawbar Eye. In this example, a Coupling and Drawbar Eye with a "Gross Trailer Weight" rating of 40,000 lbs. (18,143 kg) would be the minimum rating acceptable for normal, over-the-road applications (see Tongue Weight section below).

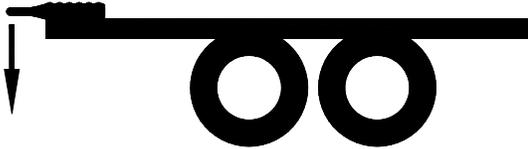
Triple Trailer Configuration



Example only, each application may vary and should be considered unique.

For "Triple Trailers", only the two most rearward trailers are considered in selecting your Premier Coupling or Drawbar Eye. In this example, a Coupling and Drawbar Eye with a "Gross Trailer Weight" rating of 80,000 lbs. (36,287 kg) would be the minimum acceptable for normal, over-the-road applications (see Tongue Weight section below).

Step 2: Determine "Tongue Weight Capacity"



"Tongue Weight Capacity" is the maximum expected weight at the drawbar eye. If a hinged drawbar is used, the maximum weight will be approximately 1/2 the overall drawbar weight. If a non-hinged drawbar is used and the actual tongue weight is not known, you can approximate the weight by multiplying the GVWR of the towed trailer by 15%. However, each application is unique and the best practice is to weigh the tongue when the trailer is loaded to its GVWR.

Step 3: Considering Operating Conditions and Environments

Environments such as rough uneven roads or off-road use can dramatically increase shock loads to both drawbar eyes and couplings. In general, increasing the "Gross Trailer Weight" (Step 1:) and "Tongue Weight Capacity" (Step 2:) by a minimum of 25% will be sufficient for many applications. Even if an application is used off-road occasionally, the minimum increase necessary for Gross Trailer and Tongue Weight is 25%. Certain types of equipment and/or operating practices can also dramatically increase loads through equipment binding and/or improper loading practices. Of special concern is high tongue weight. However, each application is unique and every environment different, therefore your application may require more than 25%.

Once both "Gross Trailers(s) Weight" (Step 1:) and "Tongue Weight Capacity" (Step 2:) have been determined, evaluate your operating conditions and apply an appropriate margin of safety.

Step 4: Browse Premier Product Catalog

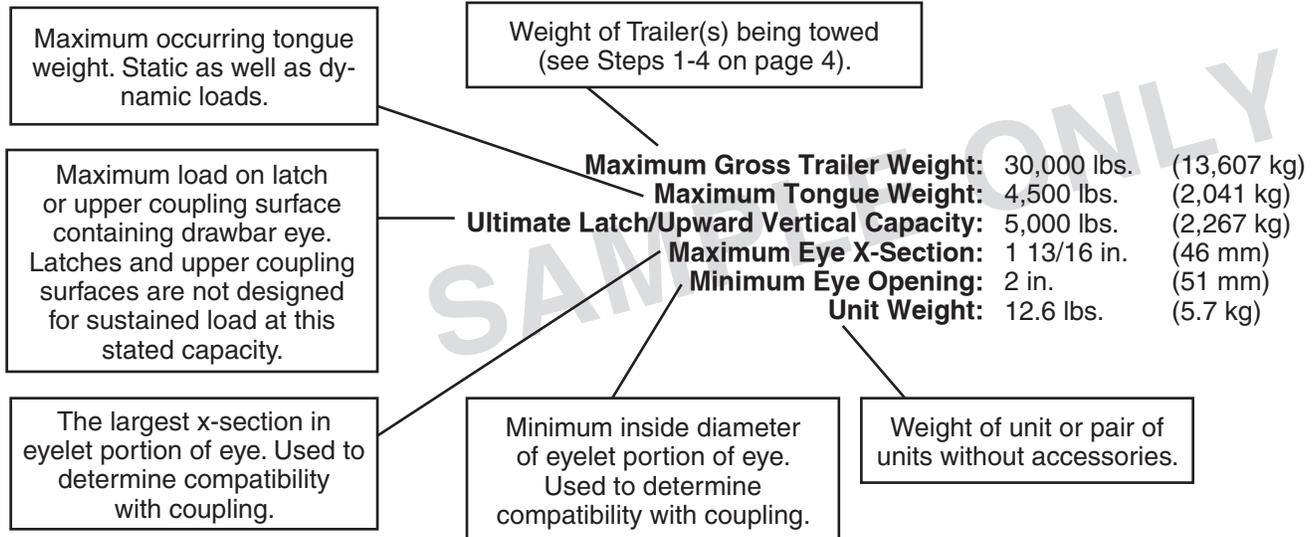
Browse the Premier Product Catalog and refer to the "Specifications" section of each product. Be sure to review the "Understanding Premier Load Specifications" section and "Coupling to Drawbar Eye Cross-Reference" sheet on the next couple pages.



Selecting The Right Equipment

Understanding Premier Load Specifications

Each Premier product undergoes extensive design and testing prior to being introduced. We use the latest in Computer Aided Design and Analysis Software as well as physical destructive tests. Premier's published load specifications are the maximum load a given product or part will withstand without failure. Premier's testing procedures closely follow the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) guidelines of Recommended Practice for testing Couplings and Drawbar Eyes (SAE J847 & J849).



Importance of Inspection and Maintenance

Safety is our #1 Priority: Through high quality designs and unsurpassed quality control procedures, Premier assures our customers that our focus on safety continues to be our #1 priority.

Scheduled Inspection & Maintenance: Regularly scheduled inspection and maintenance are essential for maintaining safe and efficient operations whether you are using Couplings, Drawbar Eyes, Jacks, Hinge Assemblies, or any other Premier product. Inspection and maintenance are necessary for proper function and will also keep repair costs to a minimum.

Technical Literature: Premier provides important literature to assist you with our products. We package and attach *Installation, Inspection, Operation & Maintenance Guides*, or *Service Guides*, to each of our major products. This literature is also available to view and/or print from our website at www.premier-mfg.com. These supply you with important information and help guide you through installation, inspection, operation, routine maintenance and part replacement.

Wear Gages: In accordance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, we created Wear Gages to assist you in determining the wear limits of Premier couplings and drawbar eyes. See details on catalog pages 7 & 75.

Additional Product Resources at Your Fingertips

Customer Service: We are always here to support you. Do you need additional information or assistance? Your phone calls are greeted by our courteous receptionist, during business hours. We have exceptional, personable Customer Service Reps for you to rely on. If you have product questions or want to place an order, you can speak directly with one of our experienced and knowledgeable Customer Service Representatives.

Sales Representatives: Would you like on site training or assistance? Contact one of our veteran Premier Sales Reps for more information about product training for your staff. Or be sure to visit with them at a Trade Show (see website for schedule).

www.premier-mfg.com: Our website is an informative resource at your fingertips. In addition to our Installation and Service Guides, you will find our Sales Representatives, distributor locations, online catalog pages, product specifications, how to select product, trade show schedule, and links to trucking resources.



Selecting The Right Equipment

Coupling - to - Drawbar Eye, Cross Reference Chart

Couplings	Drawbar Eyes																																					
	2*	3	4	5	6/6A	8	11	20	21	22	23	107	108	110	123	125	126	127	200	200L	203	205	207	238DB	245DB	245DB-3	300	304	305	306	307	309	405	407SE	410			
16	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
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† Saf-Tite Product

* Industrial Application

CAUTION: Verify that both the coupling's and drawbar eye's rated capacities meet your application(s) requirements.



238DB, 245DB & 245DB-3 Bolt-On Drawbar Eyes

ACCESSORIES

Optional Accessories:

- **14005 (1 5/8") Wear Gage:** Used to determine if the eye has worn beyond its intended service life.

INSTALLATION

Installation Procedure:

1. The 238DB, 245DB and 245DB-3 Drawbar Eyes must be installed to comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Specifically, Section 393.70, Paragraph C: "Towing of Full Trailers." Prior to install or operation, consult with local, State and Federal agencies, as there may be additional applicable laws governing installation and use of this product.
2. Drill six 41/64" diameter mounting holes in the mounting structure as outlined in the Standard Installation Drawing. NOTE: Seven mounting holes are required for model 238DB.
3. Secure the 238DB, 245DB or 245DB-3 Drawbar Eye using 5/8" grade-8 bolts and grade-C locknuts. Torque nuts to SAE specifications. THE MOUNTING STRUCTURE MUST ATTACH TO BOTH THE UPPER AND LOWER SURFACES OF THE DRAWBAR EYE, AS SHOWN IN FIGURE 1. ALL BOLT HOLES MUST BE USED.
4. An "IMPORTANT WARNINGS!" sticker was enclosed. This must be attached to the front end, adjacent to the drawbar eye, visible for the end user to read.

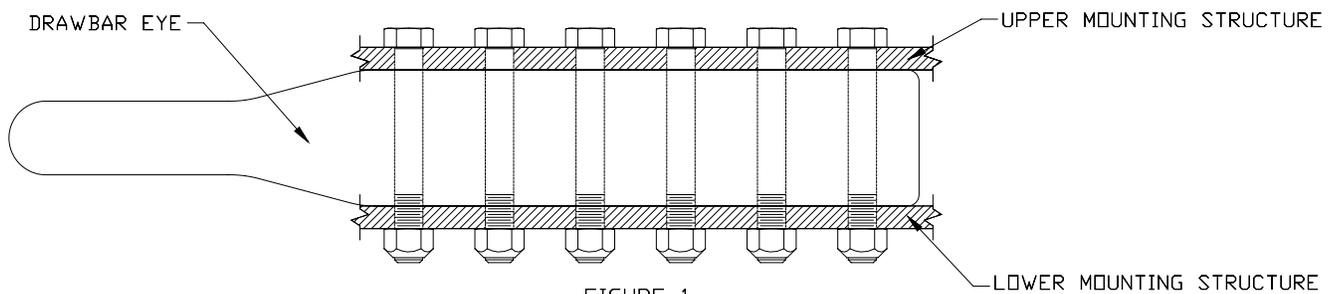


FIGURE 1

INSPECTION / OPERATION / MAINTENANCE

1. Visually inspect the drawbar eye for cracks, impact damage and/or deformation before each and every use. Do NOT use if any of these conditions exist.
 2. Check all fasteners to make certain that they are secure before each and every use.
 3. If the original cross-section of the eye loop has been reduced by 20% or greater, the drawbar eye is NOT to be used and is considered out-of-service.
 4. This product is designed to be operated within its free rotation limits. It is the responsibility of the vehicle designer/end user to assure that these limits are not exceeded (do not bind-up/jackknife).
 5. **WARNING:** Prior to towing, make certain that adequately rated safety chains have been properly connected.
 6. Never weld on any Premier drawbar eye in order to repair damaged or worn areas. Field and/or shop weld repairs are inadequate and may further weaken the drawbar eye.
- WARNING:** OTHER INSPECTIONS AND PROCEDURES ARE ALSO REQUIRED PRIOR TO OPERATION OF COMBINATION VEHICLES. CONSULT AND FOLLOW ALL FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS AS WELL AS LOCAL OR STATE/PROVINCE GUIDELINES.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES that apply to all Premier Bolt-On Drawbar Eyes

- Never attempt weld repair of damaged or worn drawbar eyes
- Air adjusted drawbar eyes must be used with an air service chamber or #500 slack adjuster
- Only Grade-8 fasteners properly torqued should be used when attaching bolt-on drawbar eyes
- Clean and inspect drawbar eyes and eye assemblies for damage or excessive wear before each and every use
- Structure to which eye is attached must be of sufficient strength to withstand load rating of eye
- Do not bind-up (Jackknife) any application as stresses can cause damage to products or components, resulting in failure and detachment of the trailer while in use
- Do not apply lubricants to the coupling hook or drawbar eye loop, as they can cover up possible damage and accelerate wear



ATTENTION !

End Users must read and follow this information.

DISTRIBUTORS & OEM'S: Please ensure that your customers are made aware of the following information on this page.

- (1) **VERIFY THAT BOTH COUPLING'S AND DRAWBAR EYE'S RATED CAPACITIES MEET YOUR APPLICATION(S) REQUIREMENTS.**
- (2) DO NOT OVERLOAD COUPLING OR DRAWBAR EYE.
- (3) INSPECT COUPLING, LATCH AND DRAWBAR EYE FOR CRACKS, BENDING DAMAGE OR EXCESSIVE WEAR. **DO NOT USE IF ANY OF THESE CONDITIONS EXIST!**
- (4) CHECK FOR GAP BETWEEN CLOSED LATCH AND TOP OF HORN OR COUPLING BALL. **DO NOT USE IF GAP IS 3/8 IN. OR MORE.**
- (5) MAKE SURE COUPLING IS LATCHED AND THAT LATCH WILL NOT OPEN.
- (6) PRIOR TO USE, ALWAYS CONNECT SAFETY CHAINS OF ADEQUATE STRENGTH FOR LOAD(S) BEING TOWED.
- (7) DO NOT BIND-UP (JACKKNIFE) ANY APPLICATION AS STRESSES CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE COUPLING, DRAWBAR EYE, OTHER COMPONENTS OR ANY COMBINATION OF THEM. JACKKNIFING MAY RESULT IN FAILURE OF PRODUCTS OR COMPONENTS, RESULTING IN DETACHMENT OF THE TRAILER WHILE IN USE.
- (8) DO NOT APPLY LUBRICANTS TO THE COUPLING HOOK OR DRAWBAR EYE LOOP, AS THEY CAN COVER UP POSSIBLE DAMAGE AND ACCELERATE WEAR.
- (9) ALWAYS ABIDE BY ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING SAFE AND PROPER TRANSPORTATION.
- (10) NEVER STRIKE ANY OF THESE COMPONENTS WITH A HAMMER OR ANY OTHER DEVICE.
- (11) ALWAYS VERIFY PROPER OPERATION OF LATCHING SYSTEM AND COUPLING COMPONENTS PRIOR TO DRIVE OFF.
- (12) NEVER USE A COUPLING THAT YOU DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND HOW TO PROPERLY OPERATE AND VERIFY SECURE LATCHING OF.
- (13) **NEVER REPLACE ANY PART IN ANY OF PREMIER'S ASSEMBLIES WITH NON-PREMIER COMPONENTS. DOING SO WILL VOID ALL WARRANTY AND POTENTIALLY COMPROMISE THE UNIT'S INTEGRITY, WHICH COULD RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, SERIOUS INJURY, OR DEATH.**



WARNING!

This envelope contains important instructions **AND MUST REMAIN ATTACHED TO THIS DRAWBAR EYE**. It may be removed only by the End User or by an Original Equipment Manufacturer who preserves this envelope and instructions and provides it to the end user.



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Bolt-On Drawbar Eyes
Installation, etc.

Revised: 11/13

WARRANTY: We warrant all Premier products to be free from defects in material or workmanship for one year. We will repair or replace, at our option, any Premier product which our examination reveals to be defective, provided that the product is returned to our factory, at Tualatin, Oregon transportation prepaid, within one year of purchase by the first retail purchaser. Our warranty does not extend to products which have been subject to misuse, neglect, improper installation, maintenance or application, nor does our warranty extend to products which have been repaired or altered outside of Premier's facility unless the repair or alteration has been expressly authorized in writing by Premier. ***This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, and excludes warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose and otherwise, and in no event will Premier be liable for incidental, special, contingent or consequential damages.***

DISCLAIMER: Although great care has been taken to ensure accurate information throughout this document, Premier Manufacturing Company must reserve the right to alter any information contained within. These changes include but are not limited to: Dimensional changes, load capacity and availability of any part or assembly.

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