



THE FIRST NAME IN QUALITY COUPLINGS

# Installation, Inspection, Operation & Maintenance Guide



## Model 546R & 556R Front End Assembly

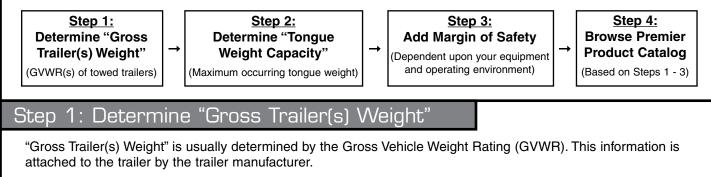
## IMPORTANT

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.





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-theroad applications (see Tongue Weight section below).

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

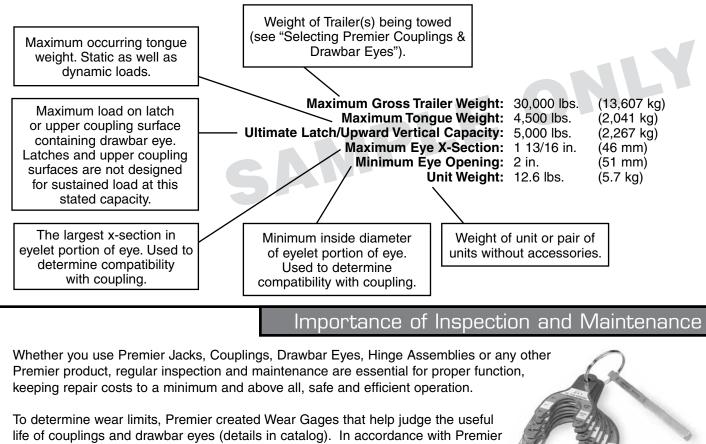
Browse the Premier Product Catalog and refer to the "Specifications" section of each product. Be sure to review the "Understanding Premier Load Specifications" section and "Coupling to Drawbar Eye Cross-Reference" sheet on the next couple pages.



## 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).



life of couplings and drawbar eyes (details in catalog). In accordance with Premier and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, these were designed to identify wear at the critical percentages of 18% and 20%, by measuring the crosssection of coupling hooks (horn) and drawbar eye loops. 18% wear indicates that

the product should be replaced as soon as possible. At 20% wear, the product is no longer in usable condition and must be taken out of service immediately and replaced. The latch gage bar measures the gap space between the top of the coupling hook and the closed latch. If the 3/8" latch gage bar can pass between this region, then the latch components should be considered worn past safe limits and replaced. Please note that these wear gage specifications are in accordance with Premier Mfg. Co. and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (refer to other manufacturer's specifications for wear limits on their products).

Premier also provides Installation Guides for each of our major products. These help guide you through installation, inspection, routine maintenance and part replacement. Another resource is our website at **www.premier-mfg.com**. Here you will find Installation Guides, Service Guides, distributor locations, online catalogs, product information, trade show schedules and links to trucking resources.



'The Harder You Work It, The Harder It Gets"

#### "Premalloy" - Premier's Exclusive Alloy

**"The harder you work it, the harder it gets"** best describes how Premalloy performs. Premalloy actually work hardens at the contact surfaces during normal use, which results in longer service life. Premalloy is highly recommended for off-road and aggregate type applications due to its wear resistant characteristics. Many of Premier's couplings are made from this exclusive material. As you are browsing the catalog, look for the Premalloy icon next to the product photos to determine which models are made of this material.



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## Selecting The Right Equipment

## Coupling to Drawbar Eye Cross Reference Chart

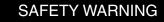
#### † Saf-Tite Product

#### \* Industrial Application

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

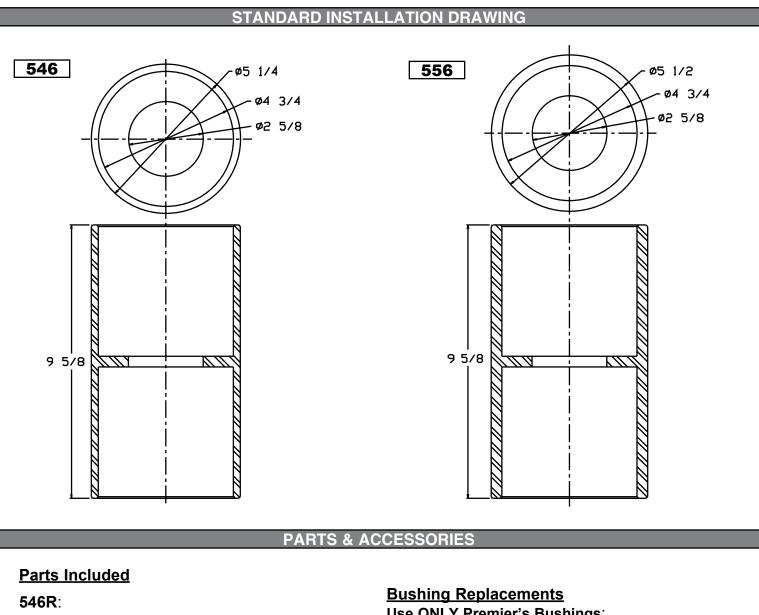


**SPECIFICATIONS** 



This product is designed for towing under normal conditions within the stated gross trailer weight capacity of the drawbar eye being used. Do not overload or abuse this product. Overloading or abuse may lead to property damage, severe injury, or death.

Bushing I.D.:	2 1/2 in.	(64 mm)
Bushing O.D.:	4 3/4 in.	(121 mm)
<b>Bushing Length:</b>	5 3/16 in.	(132 mm)



- 546 Housing
- R205 Rubber Bushings
- 407W Washer

#### 556R:

- 556 Housing
- R205 Rubber Bushings
- 407W Washer

Use ONLY Premier's Bushings:

R205 (Rubber)

#### Drawbar Eye is NOT included **Use ONLY Premier's Drawbar Eyes:**

407SE Drawbar Eye

#### INSTALLATION

These instructions are ONLY for Premier 407SE Drawbar Eyes, and Premier R205 Bushings, installed in a Premier 546R or 556R Front End Assembly. Any substitution or use of non-Premier components in the 546R or 556R Front End Assembly VOIDS ALL PRODUCT WARRANTY.

#### Installation Procedure:

- The 546R and 556R Front End Assemblies and accompanying 407SE Drawbar Eye 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 these products. Warning: The 407SE Drawbar Eye is equipped with a non-locking 421 Sleeve Nut. It is the installer's responsibility to adequately prevent the sleeve nut from unthreading using a wire, cable or other media attached to the sleeve nut and front end structure.
- 2. One of the three attached Welding Procedure Specifications; GMAW, SMAW or FCAW, must be followed. Welding should only be performed by a certified welder skilled in structural welding practices.
- 3. All weld locations must be clean, paint free and void of any moisture, oil, grease, oxides or loose or thick scale.
- 4. The front end structure that the 546 or 556 Housing attaches to must be of sufficient strength to withstand the load rating of the drawbar eye it is used with. Figure 1 demonstrates one example of a proper 546/556 Housing to front end connection. The critical features of this example include a minimum of three points of contact between the front end structure and the entire cylinder length of the 546/556 Housing as well as fillet welds of adequate size and length.

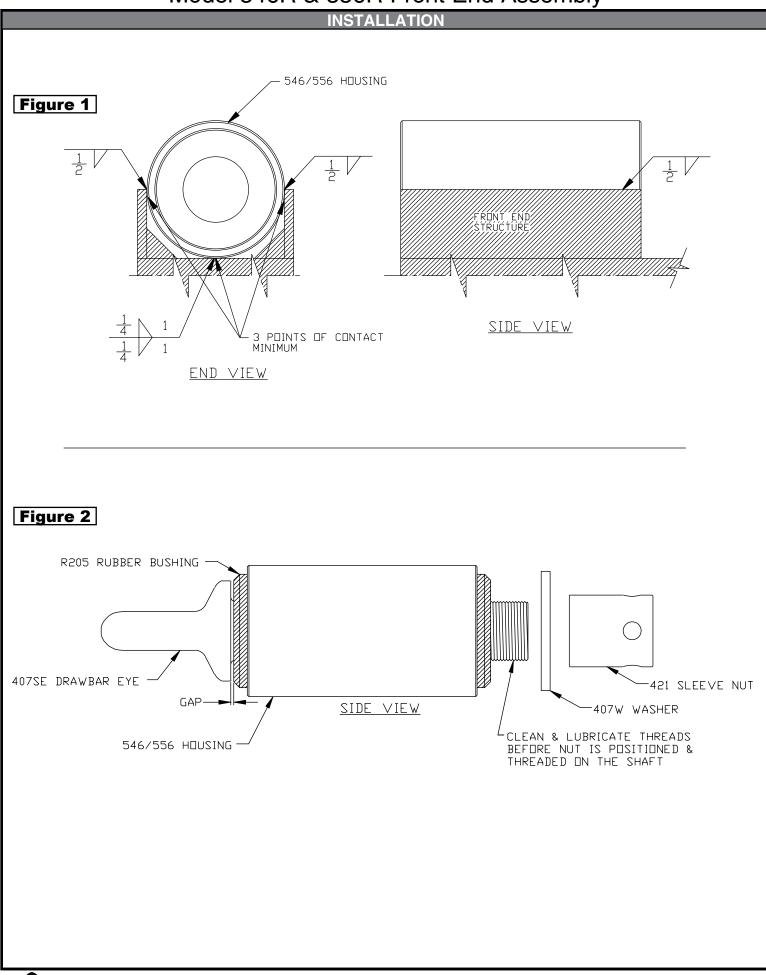
#### 546R or 556R Assembly after Welding

(Premier 407SE Drawbar Eye only) (546R or 556R: Premier R205 Rubber Bushings only)

- 5. Allow the finished structure to cool.
- 6. Slide the R205 Rubber Bushings into each end of the 546 or 556 Housing.
- Using extreme caution to avoid damaging or nicking the threads, slide the 407SE Drawbar Eye all the way through each R205 Rubber Bushing.
- 8. Clean and lubricate all visible threads.
- 9. Slide the 407W Washer onto the threaded end of the 407SE Drawbar Eye.
- 10. Lubricate the open face of the 407W Washer with 30wt. oil where the 421 Sleeve Nut will rotate against it (see Figure 3).
- 11. Thread the 421 Sleeve Nut onto the 407SE Drawbar Eye just far enough to remove any free play from the 407W Washer.
- If an initial gap exists between the flat flanged base of the 407SE Drawbar Eye and the face of the front R205 Rubber Bushing (see Figure 2), then slowly tighten the 421 Sleeve Nut until the gap just disappears as shown in Figure 3.
- Note a location on the 421 Sleeve Nut relative to a spot on the 546 or 556 Housing (see Figure 3).
- 14. Tighten the 421 Sleeve Nut no fewer than three complete revolutions from the position shown in Figure 3.
- 15. Secure the 421 Sleeve Nut to the front end structure with a wire or cable (not included) to complete the assembly as shown in Figure 4. The cable needs to be long enough to allow for some movement and articulation that the 407SE Drawbar Eye can experience during normal operation. It is very important that the cable NOT be of a length that allows the sleeve nut to rotate 360° as this could permit the nut to unthread during operation.
- 16. "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.
- **Please note**: All applications vary and this is a recommended install starting point for bushing tightness at 70°F ambient air temperature. Varying conditions and applications may require a different initial set up.

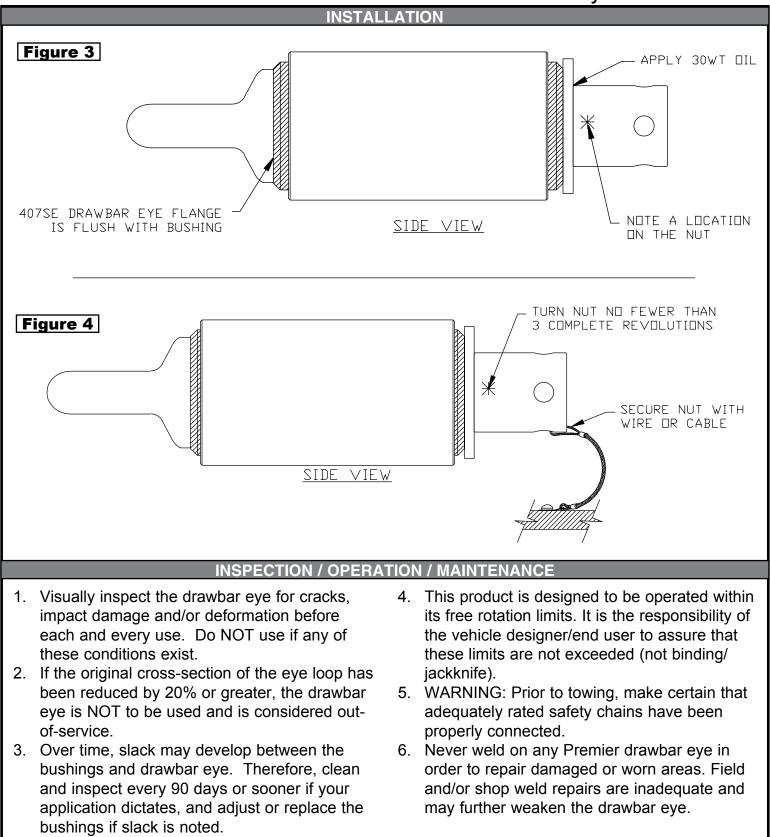


## Model 546R & 556R Front End Assembly



P

### Model 546R & 556R Front End Assembly



#### **IMPORTANT GUIDELINES that apply to all Premier Front End Assemblies**

- Never attempt weld repair of damaged or worn drawbar eyes or front end assemblies
- Clean and inspect drawbar eyes and eye assemblies for damage or excessive wear before each and every use
- All welds should be performed by a certified welder skilled in structural welding practices
- Drawbar structure as well as welds attaching front end assembly to drawbar must be of sufficient strength to withstand the load rating of the drawbar 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



## Model 546R & 556R Front End Assembly

#### WELDING PROCEDURES

#### WELDING PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION (WPS) Yes (X) PREQUALIFIED (X) QUALIFIED BY TESTING (X) or PROCEDURE QUALIFICATION RECORD (PQR) Yes (X)

<i>c</i>	MAW	Identification #: F						
<u>u</u>	SIVIAVV	Revision 0	Revision 0 Date: 2/1/00					
Company Name: Premier	Manufacturing Co.	Authorized By: Date:						
Welding Process(es): GM	IAW	Type: Manual:	Type: Manual: Semi-Auto					
Supporting PQR No.(s): N	V/A Prequalified	Machine:		Automat	ic:			
JOINT DESIGN USED		POSITION						
Type: All Fillets, Butts (Se	ee Attached)	Position of Groov	ve: 1G, 2G		Filet: 1F, 2F			
Single (X)	Double Weld (X)	Vertical Progress	Vertical Progression: Up (X)					
Backing: Yes (X)	No (X)	LECTRICAL CH	ARACTERISTIC	s				
Backing Material: M1-P1-	S1 Group 1 &2	Transfer Mode (	Transfer Mode (GMAW) short-circuiting ( )					
Root Opening:	Root Face Dimension:	Globular (X) Spray (X)						
Groove Angle:	Radius (J-U):	Current: AC ( ) DCEP(X) DCEN ( ) Pulsed ( )						
Back Gouging: Yes (X) N	lo (X) Method: Mech/Thermal	Other:						
BASE METALS		TECHNIQUE						
Material Spec.: M1-P1-S1	1026 Carbon Steel	Stringer or Weav	e Bead: String o	r Weave				
Type or Grade: Group 1 &	\$ 2	Multi-Pass or Sir	igle Pass (per si	de): Single,	Multiple			
Thickness: Groove: 1/8 -	1 1/8" Fillet: Unlimited	Number of electrodes: Single						
Diameter (Pipe): 4" minim	ium	Electrode Spacir	ig:	Longitudinal:				
FILLER METALS				Lateral:				
AWS Specification: A5.18	3			Angle:				
AWS Classification: E705	S-1	Contact Tube to Work Distance: 3/4" ±1/8"						
SHIELDING		Peening: Recommended						
Flux:	Gas: CO <sup>2</sup>	Interpass Cleaning: Mechanical						
	Composition: 100%	POSTWELD HE	AT TREATMEN	Г				
Electrode-Flux (Class)	Flow Rate: 30-50 cfh	Temp.:						
	Gas Cup Size: 1/2" Dia.	Time:						
PREHEAT	·····							
Preheat Temp.: Min.: 100	۱°F							
Interpass Temp.: Min. 10	0°F Max.: 500°F							

WELDING PROCEDURE

		Filler N	Vietals	Cu	rrent			Joint Details
Pass or Weld Layer(s)	Process	Class	Diam.	Type & Polarity	Amps or Wire Feed Speed	Volts	Travel Speed	See Attached
All	GMAW	E70S-X	0.035	DCEP	190-230	22-31	13 ±1 IPM	
All	GMAW	E70S-X	0.045	DCEP	260-290	27-31	13 ±1 IPM	

#### WELDING PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION (WPS) Yes (X) PREQUALIFIED (X) QUALIFIED BY TESTING ( ) or PROCEDURE QUALIFICATION RECORD (PQR) Yes ( )

0		Identification #: PMSMA-1							
5	MAW	Revision 0	) By: Pl						
Company Name: Premier	Manufacturing Co.	Authorized By: Date:							
Welding Process(es): SM	AW	Type: Manuai: (X)	Type: Manual: (X) Semi-Automatic:						
Supporting PQR No.(s): N	I/A (Pre-Qualified)	Machine:	Machine: 1 Automatic:						
JOINT DESIGN USED		POSITION							
Type: All Fillets-Butts (See	e Attached)	Position of Groove	: All	Fillet: All					
Single (X)	Vertical Progressic	n: Up (X)	Down ( )						
Backing: Yes (X)	ELECTRICAL CH	ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS							
Backing Material: M1-P1-			Transfer Mode (GMAW) short-circuiting ( )						
Root Opening:	Root Face Dimension:		Globular ( ) Spray ( )						
Groove Angle:	Radius (J-U):	Current: AC ( ) D	CEP (X) DCEN (	) Pulsed ( )					
Back Gouging: Yes (X) N	o (X) Method: Mech/Thermal	Other:							
BASE METALS		TECHNIQUE							
Material Spec.: M1-P1-S1	1026 Carbon Steel	Stringer or Weave	Bead: String and	Weave					
Type or Grade: Group 1 a	nd 2	Multi-Pass or Singl	e Pass (per side)	: Multiple/Single					
Thickness: Groove: 1/8"-1	1/2 Fillet: Unlimited	Number of electroc	les: Single						
Diameter (Pipe): 4" Minim	um	Electrode Spacing:	Longitudir	Longitudinal: N/A					
FILLER METALS			Lateral: N	Lateral: N/A					
AWS Specification. A5.1 -	A5.5		Angle: N/A						
AWS Classification: E701	8	Contact Tube to W	Contact Tube to Work Distance: N/A						
SHIELDING		Peening: Recomm	Peening: Recommended						
Flux:	Gas: N/A	Interpass Cleaning	Interpass Cleaning: Mechanical Only						
	Composition: N/A	POSTWELD HEAT	TREATMENT						
Electrode-Flux (Class)	Flow Rate: N/A	Temp.: N/A							
	Gas Cup Size: N/A	Time: N/A							
PREHEAT	,								
Preheat Temp. Min.: 100°	F								
Interpass Temp., Min.: 100	0°F Max.: 500°F								

		Filler	letals	Cu	rrent			Joint Details
Pass or Weld Layer(s)	Process	Class	Diam.	Type & Polarity	(Amps) or Wire Feed Speed	Volts	Travel Speed	See Attached And AWS D1.1
All	SMAW	E7018	3/32"	DCEP	70-110	19-22	As	
All	SMAW	E7018	1/8"	DCEP	90-150	20-24	Required	
Ali	SMAW	E7018	5/32"	DCEP	120-190	20-24	1	

#### WELDING PROCEDURE SPECIFICATION (WPS) Yes (X) PREQUALIFIED (X) QUALIFIED BY TESTING ( ) or PROCEDURE QUALIFICATION RECORD (PQR) Yes ( )

	EC AVA/	Identification #: PMFC-1					
	FCAW	Revision 0 Date: 2/1/00	Revision 0 Date: 2/1/00				
Company Name: Premier	Manufacturing Co.	Authorized By:	Date:				
Welding Process(es): FCA	W	Type: Manual: (X) Semi-Automatic:					
Supporting PQR No.(s): N	/A (Pre-Qualified)	Machine: Automatic:					
JOINT DESIGN USED		POSITION					
Type: All Fillets-Butts (See	Attached)	Position of Groove: All	Position of Groove: All Fill				
Single (X)	Double Weld (X)	Vertical Progression: U	p (X)	Down ( )			
Backing: Yes (X)	No(X)	ELECTRICAL CHARA	CTERISTICS				
Backing Material: M1-P1-S	\$1, Group 1 &2	Transfer Mode (GMAW	) short-circuiting	()			
Root Opening:	Root Face Dimension:	Globular (X) Spray (X)					
Groove Angle:	Radius (J-U):	Current: AC ( ) DCEP(X) DCEN ( ) Pulsed ( )					
Back Gouging: Yes (X) N	o (X) Method: Mech/Thermal	Other:					
BASE METALS		TECHNIQUE					
Material Spec.: M1-P1-S1	1026 Carbon Steel	Stringer or Weave Bea	d: String and Wea	ive			
Type or Grade: Group 1 a	nd 2	Multi-Pass or Single Pa	iss (per side): Mu	ltiple/Single			
Thickness: Groove: 1/8"-1	1/2" Fillet: Unlimited	Number of electrodes:	Number of electrodes: Single				
Diameter (Pipe): 4" Minim	um	Electrode Spacing:	Longitudinal: N/A				
FILLER METALS			Lateral: N/A				
AWS Specification: A5.20			Angle: N/A				
AWS Classification: E70T-	-1/E71T-1	Contact Tube to Work Distance: 3/4" ±1/4"					
SHIELDING		Peening: Recommended					
Flux:	Gas: CO <sup>2</sup>	Interpass Cleaning: Mechanical Only					
	Composition: 100%	POSTWELD HEAT TR	EATMENT				
Electrode-Flux (Class)	Flow Rate: 30-50 cfh	Temp.: N/A					
	Gas Cup Size: 1/2" Dia. Min.	Time: N/A					
PREHEAT							
Preheat Temp.: Min.: 100							
InterpassTemp.: Min. 100	°F Max.: 500°F						

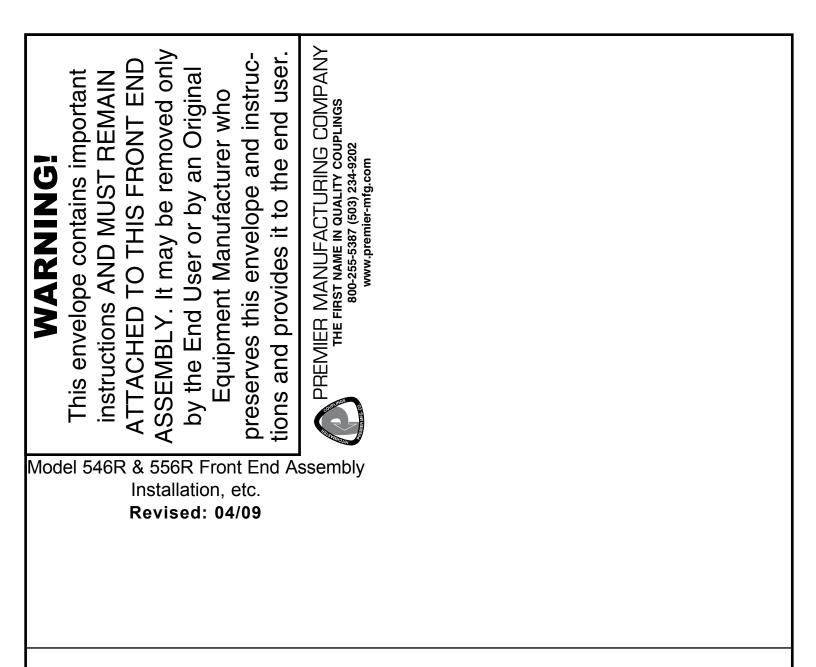
		Filler I	letais	Cu	rrent			Joint Details
Pass or Weld Layer(s)	Process	Class	Diam.	Type& Polarity	(Amps) or Wire Feed Speed	Volts	Travel Speed	See Attachec And
Ali	FCAW	E70T-1	0.045	DCEP	180-280	24-28	As	AWS D1.1
All	FCAW	E71T-1	0.052	DCEP	190-300	24-29	Required	
All	FCAW		0.068	DCEP	210-350	24-29		
All	FCAW		5/64"	DCEP	250-400	26-30	1	



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

## CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**



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