

Press release, Commercial Vehicle Motor Show 2005

JOST GB

KKS – automatic coupling system: safety and convenience when coupling and uncoupling.

Faults during the coupling process can have dire consequences. The Automatic Coupling System presented by JOST for the first time at the International Motor Show (IAA) for Commercial Vehicles in Hanover counteracts this danger, because the KKS automates the entire coupling process. This ground-breaking innovation greatly heightens safety and boosts convenience for the user.

Shunting an HGV when space is tight or in cold, wet or snowy weather with poor visibility – or even under pressure from day-to-day work – heightens the risk that the fifth wheel coupling may not be correctly coupled with the king pin and the statutory check is overlooked. Human error of this kind can result in a lost trailer.

JOST has developed an innovative Automatic Coupling System (KKS) which heightens safety and convenience. Together with Mercedes-Benz, the system was tried out in two summer and winter cycles, tested for everyday use, and given the go-ahead.

Three sensors monitor the system. The first sensor provides information about the correct coupling height and automatically activates the system during coupling. The second sensor checks the position of the king pin, and the third one monitors the locking status. Once all three sensors have given the green light, an automatic interface establishes contact with the electric motor for the trailer's telescopic landing gear. The telescopic landing gear can then be raised and lowered electrically, making strenuous cranking a thing of the past. All of the functions are controlled via a central operating module in the driver's cab. When it comes to uncoupling, the driver no longer has to open the fifth wheel coupling by hand, which was previously made all the harder if the articulated vehicle was jammed or space was tight, for example. This task is now a piece of cake with the aid of a pneumatic remote control, which can be operated without leaving the driver's cab.

The permanent electronic monitoring of all system components significantly reduces the risk of faulty or careless coupling. Less manual work and less need to get in and out of the driver's cab reduce the likelihood of the user having an accident and speed up the process of changing trailers.

KKS is a modular system which can be introduced into your fleet gradually. It is, of course, possible to connect e.g. a tractor fitted with KKS with a standard trailer (or vice versa) without encountering problems.

The Automatic Coupling System is now available, initially only from Mercedes-Benz dealers.

*photos and text on our website:
www.jost-world.com / press release*

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