

INTERFLON RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT ALERT

Lubrication of All Switch Designs Including Schwihag Layouts

OFFICIAL
Endorsement

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Introduction

There is a common misconception that certain switch designs, particularly roller-based systems such as Schwihag layouts, do not require full lubrication.

Key Message

Lube EP can be applied to **all slide chairs on all switch designs**, including Schwihag roller layouts, **excluding G and H switches with inbearer set-ups and SO units**, this is due to bend-around obstruction risk, please refer to NR RIA 034.

Why This Matters

All switch systems, regardless of design, rely on controlled movement across multiple contact points. Testing has demonstrated that Lube EP:

- Provides **movement at the heel of the switch** (fixed hinged position)
- Reduces resistance where the rail pivots during operation
- Supports consistent and smooth switch movement

Even in roller layouts:

- The rail does not remain continuously on rollers
- During operation, the rail will **fall back onto slide plates**
- These contact points still require lubrication

Lubrication of:

- Heel area
- Slide plates
- Roller plates

ensures full system performance and reduces friction across all movement phases.

The exception applies to:

- **G and H switches on bearer set-ups with SO units**, where lubrication may increase the risk of **bend-around**, impacting safe operation.

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Risks

Failure to lubricate all applicable switch types and contact points may result in:

- Increased resistance at the heel
 - Poor switch movement and incomplete travel
 - Increased load on point machines
 - Accelerated wear of components
 - Reduced reliability of the switch system
- Incorrect lubrication of excluded designs may result in:
- Increased risk of **bend-around**
 - Potential safety and operational issues

Best Practice

- Apply Lube EP to all applicable switch types, including Schwihag layouts
 - Ensure coverage of:
 - Slide chairs
 - Roller plates
 - **Heel area (critical movement point)**
 - Apply correct quantity and ensure even distribution
 - Follow site-specific standards and restrictions
- Do not:
- Lubricate **G and H switches in bearer set-ups with SO units**
 - Assume roller layouts eliminate the need for lubrication

Operational Impact

- Improved switch movement across applicable designs
- Reduced mechanical load on systems
- Increased reliability and asset life
- Maintained safety by avoiding lubrication in restricted configurations