



SERVICE BULLETIN # 46

DATE: September 13, 1983
TO: Irrigation Distributors, Reps & Salespersons
FROM: Fred W. Buchler
SUBJECT: MODEL 50FB PTO TRACTOR PUMP

Extreme drought conditions in many parts of the country this year have resulted in a heavier demand being placed upon the irrigation equipment. Some subject model pumps, placed in extreme pumping conditions, have indicated a potential problem could occur with the input shaft of the pump gearbox. Breakage of the shaft has occasionally been reported, beginning with a crack at the tractor end keyway.

Cases of failure have been reported from customers after several years of successful service, so we are reasonably sure that stress and fatigue brought about by the extreme conditions have contributed to this potential problem.

Controlled breakage tests, recently conducted in our laboratory, have confirmed sufficient strength in design and material (800 HP required to break shaft). During our controlled testing however, it was noted a crack could develop at the keyway of the drive shaft as a result of the square ended key provided with the unit.

By virtue of this finding, we have immediately discontinued the use of the square ended key, which we have been providing for over 8 years, and will be supplying a full radius key in the future. Additionally, we have eliminated the tapped hole in the end of the shaft (used for removing the shaft from the gearbox) and modified the keyway design.

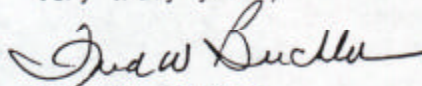
We advise you to contact all of your customers using the Model 50FB PTO pumps and encourage them to replace the square ended key in the drive shaft with a full radius key. Filing or sanding the corners of the existing key into a partial radius is an alternative.

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Although the percentage of problems reported is relatively low, we feel the above precautionary step should be taken on all units in service to ensure continued dependable service.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact our Service Department A/C 215-825-6300.

Very truly yours,



Fred W. Buchler
Sales Manager,
Major Accounts

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