

PRESS RELEASE

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MAINTENANCE OF A MECHANICAL STEERING SYSTEM **Keeping your Teleflex[®] mechanical steering in working order** **throughout the season ahead**

SOUTHAMPTON, UK (April 2010) - With summer on the way it is essential to keep all your boats' systems maintained to ensure safe, trouble free boating. In this short article we will be looking at keeping a Teleflex mechanical steering system in proper working order. If you are in any doubt about carrying out the work, consult with your local dealer.



Corrosion, salt and dirt are the main contributors to stiff steering and in extreme cases can lead to a seized steering cable. To prevent this you will need to carry out an inspection once or twice a year depending on where you use your boat. In fresh water situations, once a year is usually enough, while in salt-water it is recommended to carry out maintenance at least twice a year.

To maintain a mechanical steering system you will need to remove the steering cable from the engine. Start by detaching the link arm (or drag link) from the end of the cable and undoing the nut which locks the cable into the tilt tube. You should then be able to slide the cable out.

If you are having trouble removing the cable it may be due to corrosion inside the tilt tube. A liberal application of a penetrating oil and gentle tapping on the cable end may help it out. It can take several attempts with the penetrating oil, but if you are still having trouble, consult with your local dealer. Do not hit the cable end too hard as you can damage the cable and the engine mounting. Neither should you resort to heat as this can melt plastic fittings.

Once the cable is removed, thoroughly clean the inside of the tilt tube and apply a good coating of marine grease. Turning your attention to the cable itself, clean the complete telescoping ram end of the cable. Once again apply a good coat of marine grease to the cable end. Then re-insert the cable into the tilt tube and tighten the lock nut firmly to minimize any play in the system. Re-attach the link arm to the cable using a new lock nut and you are ready to go.

To help you carry out this maintenance, Teleflex have produced a short video called "Maintenance of a Mechanical Steering System". Find it on the Teleflex Marine website at www.teleflexmarine.com under the Marketing/Video menu. *continued overleaf...*

If you have any doubts on your ability to carry out this maintenance, have your local dealer check the system over for you.

To learn about the many quality Teleflex and Sierra marine products available, visit: **www.teleflexmarine.com**.

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About Teleflex

Teleflex® is a diversified company with annual revenues of approximately \$2.4 billion. The company designs, manufactures and distributes quality engineered products and services for the medical, aerospace, and commercial markets worldwide. Teleflex employs more than 14,000 people worldwide who focus on providing innovative solutions for customers. Additional information about Teleflex can be obtained from the company's website on the Internet at www.teleflex.com.