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How to Check & Adjust a CLUTCH



This workshop procedure guide contains:

Step-by-step instructions on how to check and adjust a clutch.

Personal safety:

Whenever you perform a task you must use personal protective clothing and equipment that is appropriate for the task. Among other items, this may include:

- Work clothing, such as overalls and steel-capped footwear.
- Eye protection, such as safety glasses and face masks.
- Ear protection, such as earmuffs and earplugs.
- Hand protection, such as rubber gloves and barrier cream.
- Respiratory equipment, such as face masks and valved respirators.

TIPS FOR CHECKING & ADJUSTING A CLUTCH

Safety check:

- Make sure the vehicle's hand brake is applied.

Points to note:

- As the clutch plate wears, it becomes thinner. This results in the release lever moving closer to the release bearing and the clutch cable losing its operational clearance.
- Some clutches are self-compensating for wear, while others require checking and adjusting.
- You must refer to the manufacturer's service manual to find out exactly where any adjustment should be made.

Checking & Adjusting a Clutch

1. Check clutch free play



Lightly push down on the clutch pedal, approximately 2.5cm, until it meets resistance.



Refer to the manufacturer's specification for your make and model to discover the location point for any adjustment.

2. Adjusting the free play



Cable or mechanical systems may require an adjustment to the length of the cable housing. Most hydraulic systems are self adjusting, but those that are not may require an adjustment to be made at the slave cylinder push rod.



Make the relevant adjustment, which is normally done by loosening a jam nut...



...and then moving an adjusting nut on a rod located on the clutch pivot arm...



...or by loosening a jam nut on the outer clutch cable and adjusting the cable in relation to its fixture bracket, to the manufacturer's specification...



...and recheck the pedal travel. When adjusted correctly, retighten the jam nut.



Hydraulic systems should also be checked for fluid leaks.

3. Check the adjustment



Start the vehicle and depress the clutch.



Make a gear selection to ensure the gears do not grate when selected.



While in gear, slowly release the clutch and see how far the pedal must travel before the clutch starts to take up.

If there is excessive free play before the clutch starts to engage, then carry out the clutch adjustment process again.

Disclaimer:

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