Troubleshooting Swivel or Hydraulic Motor Leaks

When it comes to attachment repairs, sometimes things are not what they seem.

For example, we have seen many instances of swivels being pulled and resealed more than once because they were leaking. Closer inspection, however, revealed that it was actually fluid from the rotation motor shaft seal running down onto the top of the swivel between the rotator head and attachment back plate and not the swivel leaking.

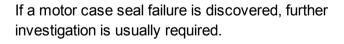
If a swivel isn't obviously leaking from under the spool retainer plate inside the rotator head but fluid is running down the spool end inside the attachment stick, the first course of action is to check the motor shaft seal.

Whether the attachment has a direct drive motor or a motor gearbox combination, remove the four motor mounting bolts, slide the motor out and inspect the shaft seal for damage or protrusion from its bore. If there is no visible damage, secure the motor inside the head so the shaft doesn't contact other components and hoses.

Extruded Motor Shaft Seal

Carefully inspect the motor shaft seal area while an operator rotates the motor from the cab. If the shaft seal is leaking, it must be replaced. If the attachment has a motor gearbox combination, the gearbox must be removed from the rotator head, and its seal must also be inspected and repaired.

Motor shaft seal failures on a piston or gear motor are almost always due to plumbing issues, including the case drain being connected to a return circuit on the carrier instead of the suction side of the hydraulic tank or a rotate line being inadvertently connected to the case drain port on the attachment.



Finding the source of a leak can be a challenge. If you need assistance, contact Tim at 218-349-5755, talseth@genesisattachments.com



