

Promoting safe, proper bearing handling practices for the heavy-duty market

Why use a dial indicator?

Dial indicators can be used to measure wheel bearing end play. If end play is within the desired range, it means your wheel bearing is adjusted correctly.

We subscribe to The Maintenance Council's recommended procedure (RP 618) of wheel adjustment. This procedure allows you to establish end play in the .001"-.005" range for non-drive front axles, drive axles and trailer axles.

Remember, an improper wheel-bearing adjustment may result in leaky seals or shortened bearing life. So it's important to check your final adjustment with a dial indicator to make sure end play is within the desired range.

Steps to using a dial indicator:

- Mount indicator base on wheel hub as close to center of spindle as possible.
- Place indicator tip against end of spindle.
- Grasp wheel hub or brake drum at nine o'clock and three o'clock. Pull wheel hub out while oscillating it to seat parts. Set indicator at zero.
- Push wheel hub in while rotating.
- Read bearing end play as total indicator movement.

