

January 13, 2016

**Tech Tip #49**

**Identification of non-leaking seal versus leaking seal**

A small amount of visible lubricant seepage on the backside of Stemco seals is considered normal and acceptable. We often see this in new seals that we test every day. This is not unusual, and it does not mean that the seal is leaking. This seepage is most likely a result of grease prelube escaping from a newly installed seal. Our factory places this grease prelube into the seal upon assembly to reduce the frictional heat generation upon seal “run-in”. If the visible seepage extends well out onto the hub and is quite damp, then the seal may be leaking and should be replaced at the first opportunity.



**Figure 1: Non-Leaking Seal**



**Figure 2: Non-Leaking Seal**



**Figure 3: Non-Leaking Seal**



**Figure 4: Leaking – Change Seal**