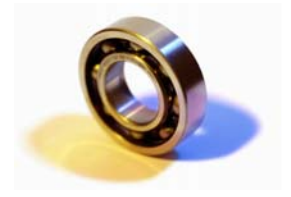
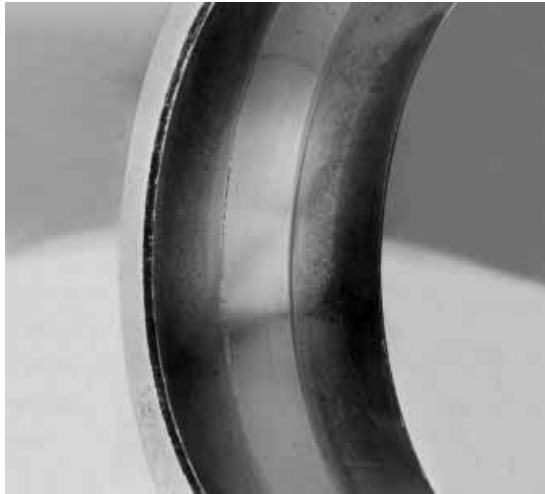


# Tool Box Talk – Lubrication of Bearings

## Best Practices



**Best Maintenance Lubrication Practices** are essential to optimal life for ball and rolling element bearings. The photographs included here are from the *Bearing failures and their causes* (© SKF 1994, Publication PI 401 E). If you do not own this yet, it is recommended that you buy it: [www.skf.com](http://www.skf.com).



**Cause of Failure: Abrasive particles**

**NOTE:** It may be possible someone did not wipe off the end of the grease gun after pumping grease out or did not clean the grease fitting before lubricating.



**Cause of Failure: Loss of lubrication or the lack of lubrication (same idea, same outcome)**

**NOTE:** There are four factors that are important when lubricating bearings:

1. What type of lubrication?
2. How much lubrication?
3. How frequently should lubrication be applied?
4. How should the lubrication be applied to ensure contamination control?



**Cause of Failure: Dirt ingress during the lubricating process, seal damage, or bad installation practices**

**WARNING:** Best Maintenance Lubrication Practices must be conducted as a “Controlled Experiment”. You install the equipment to specification, operate it to specification, and introduce lubrication to specification.

### Definitions from Merriam-Webster Dictionary

**Specification:** *a detailed precise presentation of something or of a plan or proposal for something*

**Experiment:** *an operation or procedure carried out under controlled conditions in order to discover an unknown effect or law, to test or establish a hypothesis, or to illustrate a known law*