

Livestock trailer manufacturer replaces welding and rivets with Plexus Adhesives

Wilson Trailer Company manufactures trailers for transporting cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, and other livestock. Their SilverStar trailers are available in a number of deck and sidewall pattern configurations specially designed for the type of livestock being hauled.

In the past, Wilson riveted the aluminum roofs, sidewalls, and floors of the trailers – a noisy, 2-person job. Used in several places throughout the trailer, welding requires highly skilled workers.

Recently, the company replaced some of these time-consuming and labor-intensive operations on its SilverStar trailers with bonding using Plexus Metal Bonder™ Adhesives. Wilson originally bonded aluminum roofs to the trailers, eliminating the costly process of riveting. Today, the company bonds the curved aluminum "skin" at the front end of the trailer to extruded aluminum ribs using Plexus Metal Bonder™ Adhesives.

Plexus Adhesives:

- Streamline production and reduce assembly costs
- Produce stronger assemblies by distributing stresses over large areas instead at rivet sites
- Eliminate dimpling and scorching due to welding
- Reduce costly predrilling operations, factory noise, and repetitive stress injuries from riveting
- Reduce weight without sacrificing strength or durability

Extremely pleased with the performance of the adhesives, Wilson is investigating using them to bond diamond sheet floor panels to an aluminum I-beam frame.

ITW Plexus, manufacturer of Plexus Adhesives has over 30 years experience in the development of methacrylate adhesives for bonding engineered plastics, advanced composites, metals, and other dissimilar substrates. Plexus Adhesives are widely used in the marine, automotive, truck, bus, architectural, and general manufacturing industries.

