

Which bearings and rod ends of SKF need to be maintained?

Bearings and rod ends requiring maintenance must be greased preparatory being taken into operation. With the exception of a few applications, they must be relubricated periodically. SKF steel/steel radial spherical plain bearings are built from bearing steel and are through-hardened. The high-strength sliding contact surfaces are phosphated and treated with a special running-in lubricant. These bearings are used primarily in applications where there are:

- heavy static loads
- heavy alternating loads
- shock loads

They are also relatively insensitive to contaminants and white heats.

To facilitate relubrication, lubrication holes and grooves are provided in both the inner and outer rings of all steel/steel radial spherical plain bearings-- barring a few small sizes. SKF steel/bronze rod ends also require relubrication. However, requirements are less stringent than for steel/steel rod ends, as the emergency running properties of bronze are more forgiving than steel.



The multi-groove system

Standard steel/steel radial spherical plain bearings that must accommodate minor alignment movements under very heavy, constant direction loads are prone to lubricant starvation. To maximize the effects of the lubricant under these conditions, SKF has developed the multi-groove system and manufactures all metric steel/steel radial spherical plain bearings with an outside diameter $D \geq 150$ mm with the multi-groove system on the sliding surface of the outer ring as standard († fig. 8). Metric steel/steel radial spherical plain bearings with an outside diameter D These lubrication grooves provide the following benefits:

- improved lubricant supply to the loaded zone
- enlarged lubricant reservoir in the bearing
- enable relubrication under load
- extended relubrication intervals

- space for wear particles and contaminants
- extended grease life

The main benefit of the multi-groove system is that it improves lubricant distribution in the heavily loaded zone to extend service life and/or maintenance intervals.