



AIR BRAKE SYSTEM SAFETY CHECK

Air brake safety system checks are extremely important in the every day operation of an air-braked vehicle. Determining the proper function of the air brake system is essential before operating the vehicle on the highway. It involves inspection and testing by the driver.

Mechanical Inspection

The mechanical component inspection is for defects that will place the vehicle out of service.

1. Wheels

- a) Brake lining that is not contacting the drum or disc when the brakes are applied
- b) Missing or broken mechanical components
- c) Cracked, loose or missing brake lining
- d) Oil seal or hub leakage soaking brake linings
- e) Brake linings that are less than minimum thickness

2. Brake Chamber

- a) Audible air leaks at brake chamber
- b) Mismatched chamber sizes or slack adjuster length on steer axle
- c) Any non-manufactured hole or crack in spring brake chambers

3. Hoses

- a) Brake hose that bulges or swells under pressure
- b) Audible leaks at any brake hose
- c) Improperly joined or spliced brake hose
- d) Brake hose that is cracked, broken or crimped

4. Tubing

- a) Brake tubing with an audible leak at other than a proper connection
- b) Brake tubing cracked, damaged by heat, broken or crimped

5. Reservoirs

- a) Insecure reservoirs

6. Compressor

- a) Loose mounting bolts
- b) Cracked, loose or missing pulley
- c) Cracked or broken mounting brackets or adapters on compressor

7. Brake Adjustment

- a) Brake adjustment at each wheel must be checked and be within proper specifications.

After checking the mechanical components, there are system function checks and additional safety checks that should be performed insuring that the vehicle is in safe operating range. Items such as air pressure warning devices, governor settings, and build up time are also essential to insuring proper brake function. It is up to the Maintenance Managers and Heavy Duty technician to insure all drivers are familiar with the requirements.