



RECEIVED
By Recall Management Division at 8:19 am, Jun 11, 2012

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC
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Elyria, Ohio 44035

440-329-9000
440-329-9203 Fax

June 8, 2012

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL #7003 0500 0002 8281 3429

12E-020
(5 pages)

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Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation (NEF-111)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Information Report
Brake Valve Plunger

Dear Ms. Timian:

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the item of motor vehicle equipment described below. Bendix is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Information Reports."

1. The name of the manufacturer is **Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**.
2. The item of equipment containing the defect is the brake valve plunger used in a variety of foot brake valves models. A list of the applicable part numbers and devices is represented as Attachment A. The inclusive dates of manufacture of the potentially affected plungers, treadle assemblies and valves are July 27, 2011 through May 18, 2012.
3. The total number of potentially affected brake valves, treadle assemblies and/or plungers sold by Bendix is **1,284**. Some of the units were sold for OEM applications on new motor vehicles and some were sold for aftermarket replacement equipment. The total number of potentially affected brake valves, treadle assemblies or plungers sold to aftermarket outlets and included in this equipment recall is **1,070**. Additional quantities of OE valves were sold for off-road mining equipment that is not included in this notification. We understand that the OEMs must make their own decisions as to whether this component contains a safety-related defect as installed in their vehicles.
4. Attachment B of this letter is a list of the names, addresses and – where known – telephone numbers of each vehicle manufacturer that purchased potentially affected brake valves for installation or use on new motor vehicles in the United States. Represented as Attachment C is a list of names, addresses and – where known – telephone numbers of each aftermarket outlet that purchased potentially affected brake valves, treadle assemblies or plunger replacement kits for service replacement.
5. Bendix has determined that an unapproved manufacturing modification at a Bendix sub-supplier has led to a potential defect. The modification resulted in a thin wall section that can potentially develop a fracture during a brake application, resulting in reduced brake pedal angle and travel.

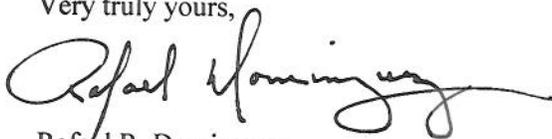


This condition may limit the driver's ability to deliver full pressure from the foot brake valve. During the brake application, service brakes are still available. There is also a potential that the brake plunger could become lodged and not allow release of the service brakes. There have been no reports of any injuries or accidents related to this issue.

6. Bendix uncovered the issue during its investigation following a report of a vehicle unable to release its brakes at an OEM manufacturing location. The issue was initially reported to Bendix on May 17, 2012. Bendix inspected vehicles and verified the situation in the field with an on-site review. On May 18, 2012, Bendix stopped shipments of all potentially affected brake valves, treadle assemblies and plunger kits until all inventory was inspected and validated. Shipments resumed on May 23, 2012. Bendix traced the root cause to the unapproved manufacturing modification made to a lot of material beginning on July 27, 2011 and described in item 5 above. On June 1, 2012, Bendix decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists with respect to the affected brake valve plungers.
7. Bendix will provide a remedy without charge for all potentially affected brake valves, treadle assemblies and/or plungers covered by this recall campaign.
8. Bendix has informally notified the vehicle manufacturers of this issue already. We will provide a formal notification to our customers (including vehicle manufacturers and aftermarket customers), supplying a draft notice to your office for review and approval in the next several days. Bendix intends to send the formal notification to its customers promptly upon receipt of your approval from your office. Bendix will have immediate availability of the permanent remedy to address this issue at the time the customer notifications are delivered.
9. Bendix will reimburse any owner of a vehicle equipped with a affected brake valve plunger who incurred the cost of replacing the plunger – after May 18, 2012 and up to the date that is ten calendar days following the completion of the formal customer notification identified above specifically to address the defect identified in this Defect Report – unless the owner made or could have made a claim under warranty. Bendix will require adequate documentation that the owner actually owned the product and incurred the expense of replacing it to address the defect, consistent with the requirement of Section 573.13(d)(4) of NHTSA's regulations.

Please advise us of the NHTSA campaign number assigned to this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Rafael R. Dominguez
Director, Quality and Product Safety

cc: K. Schuler, NHTSA

Attachments

Attachment A

**Brake Valve Plunger
Part Numbers**

OE Part Numbers	Aftermarket Part Numbers
5006290 - Bendix® E-10PR™ Brake Valve K043079 - Bendix® E-10™ Brake Valve	237548N - Bendix® Plunger Kit 287078 - Bendix® E-6™ Brake Valve 104718 - Bendix® Treadle Assembly 107703N - Bendix® E-10R™ Brake Valve K050386 - Bendix® Treadle Assembly

Attachment B

**Vehicle Manufacturers
Brake Valve Plunger**

Novabus
1000, Boulevard Industriel.
Saint-Eustache (Québec)
CANADA J7R 5A5

Patrick Retailleau
(450) 472-6410 x 6635

Blue Bird Corporation
402 Blue Bird Blvd.
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Bruce Miles
(478) 822-2077

Attachment C

Aftermarket Distribution Brake Valve Plunger

APC / Ardmore Brake 540 Delwar Road #3 Pittsburgh, PA 15236	Bluebird Aftermarket Parts 2338 US St Rte 42 Delaware, OH 43015	Caterpillar, Inc 6409 West Smithville Rd Bartonville, IL 61607
CCC Parts Company 1230A Upper Asbury Ave Charlotte, NC 28206	Cook Brothers Truck Parts 1040 Bradley St Watertown, NY 13601	Daimler Buses North America Inc 515 11th St SE Canton, OH 44707-3811
Drive Train Industries 5555 Joliet St Denver, CO 80239	FleetPride 508 Temple Hill Road New Windsor, NY 12553	Fleetpride 4501 S Creyts Road Lansing, MI 48917
Fleetpride #208 22672 Murrock Circle Watertown, NY 13601	Freeway Ford Sterling Truck Sales 8445 W 45th St Lyons, IL 60534	Gabrielli Truck Sales 15320 South Conduit Ave Jamaica, NY 11434
Gillig Corporation 25800 Clawiter Road Hayward, CA 94545	International Truck & Engine 4201 Winfield Road Warrenville, IL 60555	Lakeway Truck Centre Ltd 1230 Great Northern Road Sault Ste Marie, Ontario P6A 5K7
Motor Coach Industries Service Part 7001 Universal Coach Dr Louisville, KY 40258	Muncie Transit Supply Co 3720 S Madison St Muncie, IN 47302	Neopart LLC 5051 Horseshoe Pike Honeybrook, PA 19344
New Flyer Parts Brampton 420 Deerhurst Drive Unit 1 Brampton, Ontario L6T 5H9	New Flyer Parts Winnipeg 25 DeBaets Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R2J 4G5	Northern Virginia Supply Inc 7647 A Fullerton Road Springfield, VA 22153
Pacific Truck & Trailer Canada PDC 11523 186th St Edmonton, Alberta T5S 2W6	PBS Brake & Supply 6044 Corporate Dr East Syracuse, NY 13057	Prevost Car Inc 201 South Ave South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Sterling Trucks of Calgary 2800 Barlow Trail NE Calgary, Alberta T1Y 1A2	Superior Distributors 4 Midland Ave Elmwood Park, NJ 07407	Tallman Truck Center Oshawa 787 Bloor Street West Oshawa, Ontario L1J 5Y6
Traction - Oshawa-Whitby 183-172 1751 Wentworth St West Units 3-6 Whitby, Ontario L1N 8R9	Winslow Motors Limited 1018 Lansdowne St W Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Y5	