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Timothy A. Blubaugh
Director
Government Technical Affairs

OFFICE OF VEHICLES
WASHINGTON, DC

Freightliner LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland, OR 97217-7699
503.745.5219 Telephone
503.745.6800 Facsimile
TimothyBlubaugh@Freightliner.com

June 2, 2006

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

06V-905
(9 pgs.)

Re: Defect Information Report FL-477, Bendix SR7 Park Brake Valve

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 4,500 Freightliner trucks, Sterling trucks and Thomas Built Buses manufactured April 1, 2006 through May 26, 2006 for a defect in the modulated spring brake valve.

Attached are Freightliner's Defect Information Report and a copy of Bendix Commercial Vehicle System's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
DOSH, Legal Unit
10th Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Enclosure

Certified Mail Number: 7003 2260 0001 3403 4285

Defect Information Report
(Section 573.6)

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MVS-215
2006 JUN 12 P 12:03

June 2, 2006

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

(c)(1) **Manufacturer:** Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Freightliner, Sterling, Thomas Bus, Freightliner Custom Chassis

(c)(2) **Vehicle identification:**

Model(s) affected: Freightliner Argosy, Cargo, Century Class S/T, Columbia, FLD; Sterling Cargo, AT, L, LT and Acterra; Thomas Built Buses C2 and HDX school buses.

Model Years affected: 2007

Manufacture Dates: April 1 2006 through May 26, 2006

Basis for determining population: Vehicles manufactured during these dates with a specific park brake valve.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC
901 Cleveland Street
Elyria, OH 44036
Anthony LaPlaca, Vice President and General Council

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 4,500

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 50%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** A defect in the modulated spring brake valve casting may cause an intermittent delay in the application of the park brake. See the attached Bendix Defect Information Notice.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: The vehicle may roll away without warning, possibly causing personal injury. There have been no incidences reported from the field. See the attached Bendix Defect Information Notice.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** On May 18, 2006 a Freightliner plant reported failures with some Bendix SR-7 park brake valves. On May 23, 2006, there was a rollaway incident at a Freightliner plant. Suspect parts analyzed by the manufacturer revealed a defect in the #1 cavity of a two cavity mold for the brake valve cast metal body. The defect in the mold was traced to an improperly sized core pin used in the die April 1, 2006. See the attached Bendix Defect Information Notice.

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** N/A

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers. Valves will be inspected for a suspect date code and cavity number. Defective valves will be replaced.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately June 30, 2006.

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-477



Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC
901 Cleveland Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035
Tel: 440.329.9000 • Fax: 440.329.9203

Anthony C. LaPlaca
Vice President and General Counsel
440-329-9179 Direct
440-329-9265 Fax
anthony.laplaca@bendix.com

June 1, 2006

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL #7004 2890 0002 7928 9087
and VIA TELECOPY (202) 366-7882**

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter
Chief, Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NSA – 10)
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Defect and Noncompliance Information Report

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the item of motor vehicle equipment described below, and 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 Bendix® SR-7™ spring brake modulating valve. A list of the applicable part numbers is attached as Attachment A. The inclusive dates of manufacture of the potentially affected units are April 1, 2006, through May 24, 2006.
3. The total number of potentially affected SR-7 valves sold by Bendix and included in this recall campaign is 14,935 units for OEM applications on new motor vehicles and 304 units for aftermarket replacement equipment. Some number of the units sold to OEMs may have been for use on new vehicles sold outside of the United States and some of the units may have been used for equipment which does not constitute motor vehicles. Approximately fifty percent (50%) of the population of SR-7 valves manufactured between inclusive dates in paragraph 1 contain the defect.
4. Attached hereto as Attachment B is a list of the names, addresses, and, where known, telephone numbers of each vehicle manufacturer that purchased potentially affected SR-7 valves for installation or use on new motor vehicles in the United States.
5. Bendix has determined that a manufacturing defect exists in the cast metal body of certain SR-7 spring brake modulating valves manufactured during the dates listed above. The diameter of a check valve cavity in the affected valve's body was improperly made by a sub-supplier. The check valve inside the valve cavity may not properly seat, causing internal air leakage. If the check valve does not properly seat, the resulting leakage can cause a delay in the application of the spring brakes to park the vehicle after the operator pulls the dash valve button. The delayed parking brake application can occur without warning, leading to unintended vehicle rollaway.

a member of the
Knorr-Bremse
Group

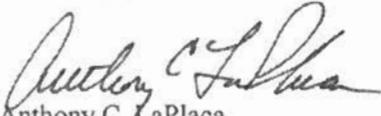


Normal service braking is not affected by this condition. There have been no reports of any injuries related to this issue.

6. On May 18, 2006, Bendix was informed by a vehicle manufacturer that several SR-7 valves were identified to be leaking at the vehicle assembly plant. On May 19, 2006, representatives of Bendix visited the vehicle manufacturer's plant to investigate the matter and to obtain potentially affected valves for further evaluation. On May 23, 2006, the vehicle manufacturer informed Bendix of a vehicle rollaway incident on the vehicle manufacturer's lot. On May 24, 2006, as part of its internal investigation, Bendix determined its supplier of die cast valve bodies replaced a core pin in the die with an improperly sized core pin. As a result, the cavity dimensions in one of the two valve bodies cast from the affected die are not within specifications. On May 30, 2006, Bendix decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists with respect to the potentially affected SR-7 spring brake modulating valves.
7. The affected SR-7 valves covered by this recall campaign can be identified by a distinct casting code of "1" cast into the valve body along with the manufacturing date code stamped on the valve body. An Identification Guideline showing how to visually identify a potentially affected valve is attached as Attachment C.
8. Bendix will provide new SR-7 spring brake modulating valves for replacement without charge of all affected valves covered by this recall campaign.
9. Bendix intends to notify the vehicle manufacturers immediately. Notification to Bendix distributors that a remedy without charge will be available to owners is estimated to commence by June 8, 2006.
10. Because all affected SR-7 valves are new and covered by warranty, no pre-notification reimbursement plan is required.

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

Very truly yours,



Anthony C. LaPlaca
Vice President and General Counsel

ACL:amh
Attachments

Attachment A

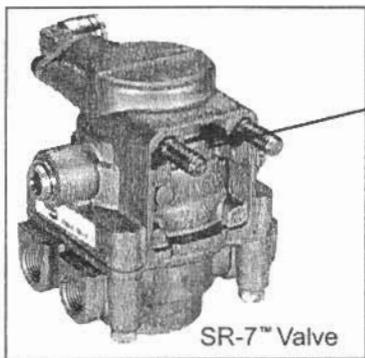
**SR-7™ Spring Brake Modulating Valve
Part Numbers**

<u>OE Part Numbers</u>	<u>Aftermarket Part Numbers</u>
5010914 5010915 5010916 5010917 5011180 5012045 5012046	801329
5012100	801328
5012472	801536
5012489 5012568	801328
5012569	801569
5012615	801570
5012616	801571
5012831	801536
5013055	801329
5015302	802538
5016270	801571
5016271 5017103	801898
5017233	801329

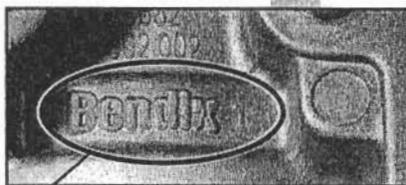
Bendix® SR-7™ Valve Recall Campaign Identification Guidelines

June 1, 2006

This easy-to-follow guide is to be used to identify those SR-7™ valves that are subject to the recall campaign.



Step 1: Identify the casting as either **Bendix 1** or **Bendix 2**.
(Located on the side of the valve as shown.)



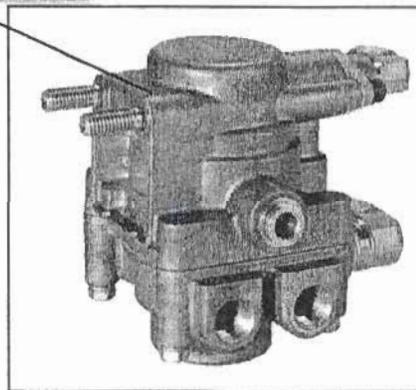
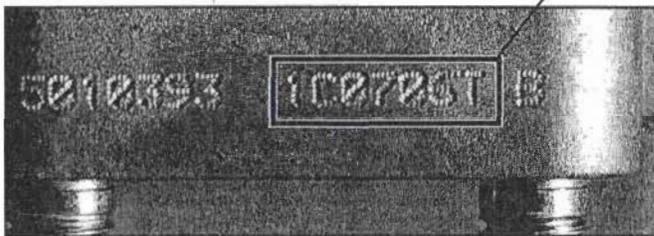
If the casting has "**Bendix 1**" on the side, it is potentially affected by the recall campaign and must be further identified.

Go to Step 2.

If the casting has "**Bendix 2**" on the side, it is not affected by the recall campaign, and no further action is required.

STOP

Step 2: Identify the date of manufacture.
(Date code located on the top of the valve as shown.)



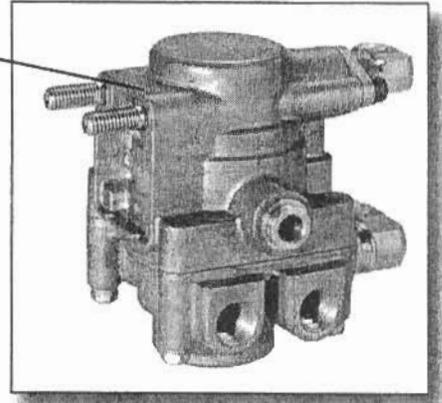
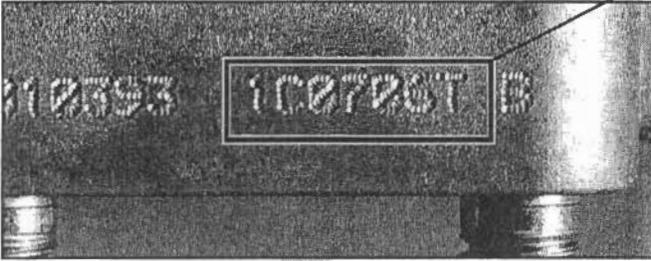
SR-7™ valves with the casting code "Bendix 1" manufactured between April 1, 2006 and May 24, 2006 are subject to the recall campaign and must be replaced.

To identify the date of manufacture go to the "**Manufacturing Date Code Interpretation**" on the next page.

Bendix

Manufacturing Date Code Interpretation

Date Code Location



Manufacturing Date Code Interpretation:

The key date code characters used for identification are the 2nd through the 6th alphanumeric characters; all others can be disregarded.

The second character in the date code is an alpha character representing the month of manufacture (A through M skipping the letter I) corresponding to January through December (D = April and E = May). The next four characters are numbers representing the two digit day of the month followed by the two digit year. For example the date code 1C0706T, key characters C0706, indicates the valve was manufactured 3-07-06 or March 7, 2006.

SR-7" valves with a casting code "Bendix 1" and the following date codes are subject to the recall campaign and must be replaced per the SR-7" Recall Campaign Guidelines.

D0106 (April 1, 2006) through _E2406_ (May 24, 2006) inclusive.

SR-7™ Valve Part Number Reference

All SR-7™ valve part numbers are potentially affected by the campaign. For ease of reference a part number listing of all the valves are shown here.

OE Part Number	Service Part Number
5010914	801329
5010915	
5010916	
5010917	
5011180	
5012045	
5012046	
5012100	801328
5012472	801536
5012489	801328
5012568	
5012569	801569
5012615	801570
5012616	801571
5012831	801536
5013055	801329
5015302	802538
5016270	801571
5016271	801898
5017103	
5017233	801329