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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Nasser Zamani  
Manager  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

**07V-302  
(11 pages)**

Freightliner LLC  
4747 N. Channel Ave  
Portland, OR 97217-7699  
503-745-6910 Phone  
503-745-5544 Fax  
NasserZamani@Freightliner.com

July 3, 2007

Dan Smith  
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report FL-504,  
Bendix SR-7 Spring Brake Control Valve Assembly Check Valves**

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 75,000 Freightliner, Sterling, Freightliner Custom Chassis, and Thomas Built Buses vehicles manufactured since July 2002 with a defect in a check valve that is part of the Bendix SR-7 spring brake control valve assembly.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Enclosure

Certified Mail# 7073 2260000/ 3403 4575

**Defect Information Report**

(Section 573.6)

July 3, 2007

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

**Brands:** Freightliner, Sterling, Freightliner Custom Chassis, Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) **Vehicles identification:**

**Model(s) affected:**

Freightliner: Argosy, Columbia, Century ST, Coronado, FLD112, FLD120, FLD120SD, Classic, Classic XL, Business Class M2, FL80 Business Class FL112 Business Class  
Sterling: Acterra, A-Line, L-Line

FCCC: B2 School Bus Chassis, van chassis, RV motorhome chassis

Thomas Built Buses: C2 Saf-T-Liner School Bus, HDX bus models

**Model Years affected:** 2003 to 2008

**Manufacture Dates:** July 2002 to present

**Basis for determining population:** Vehicles manufactured July 2002 to present with Bendix SR-7 spring brake controls valves identified by Bendix in attached 573 Defect Information Reports.

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:**

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC  
901 Cleveland Street  
Elyria, OH 440365

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 75,000

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** See attached Bendix 573 Defect Information Reports.

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** See attached Bendix 573 Defect Information Reports. Reference to NHTSA 07E-037 and 07E-038.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** See attached Bendix 573 Defect Information Reports.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** See attached Bendix 573 Defect Information Reports. Freightliner received notification from Bendix June 11, 2007

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** not applicable

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs. Freightliner will provide details of the repair to NHTSA when the modification is defined. Dealer notifications will be posted August 24, 2007.

**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 August 24, 2007.

**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-504



**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](mailto:anthony.laplaca@bendix.com)

June 7, 2007

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL #7002 3150 0004 6125 3610**  
**and VIA TELECOPY (202) 366-7882**

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter  
Chief, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NSA – 10)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Information Report  
*SR-7™ Spring Brake Modulating Valve*

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 November 4, 2005 through April 17, 2007.
3. The total number of potentially affected SR-7 valves sold by Bendix worldwide and included in this recall campaign is 159,294 units. Some of units were sold for OEM applications on new motor vehicles and some were sold for aftermarket replacement equipment. Bendix shall provide NHTSA with a supplement to this report within the next two weeks to reflect its OEM and aftermarket unit sales in the United States. The entire population of SR-7 valves manufactured between the inclusive dates in paragraph 2 potentially contains the defect. A portion of the SR-7 valves manufactured between April 1, 2006 and May 24, 2006 are subject to a pending recall campaign No. 06E-051.
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 internal rubber check valves inside the SR-7 spring brake modulating valves manufactured during the dates listed above. The component supplier of the internal check valve made unauthorized changes to its manufacturing



process. The combination of eliminating the post cure process and not increasing the mold temperature can lead to the internal check valve rubber becoming deformed over time and potentially resulting in the check valve not properly seating. This condition can occur intermittently. 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. Normal service braking is not affected by this condition. Bendix estimates that approximately 5% of the potentially affected SR-7 valves may exhibit this condition. There have been no reports of any injuries related to this issue.

6. In August 2006, Bendix received a returned SR-7 valve with a report of leakage consistent with delayed application of parking brakes. Bendix performed laboratory tests on the part, but could not duplicate the leakage. In October 2006, Bendix received two other SR-7 valves with reported leakage. In December 2006, Bendix began analyzing all SR-7 valves returned under warranty but was not able to determine whether any defect existed. In February 2007, the Bendix Product Integrity Committee (PIC) opened its investigation of the issue. In March 2007, Bendix was informed by a vehicle manufacturer that it had duplicated the leakage issue on a vehicle, and representatives of Bendix visited the vehicle manufacturer's plant to investigate the matter and to obtain the affected valve for further evaluation at Bendix laboratories. Until this point Bendix was not able to isolate the primary contributing factors to the leakage. The investigation was further complicated by reported leakage in some SR-7 valves related to the Parker single check valve issue identified in a separate Defect Report filed with NHTSA on this date. In March 2007, Bendix received a report of a vehicle rollaway incident in the field involving minor property damage. In April 2007 Bendix determined its supplier made unauthorized manufacturing changes by eliminating the post-cure process. During April and May, Bendix confirmed the impact of the post-cure process and the valve molding temperature on the functioning of the internal check valve. On May 31, 2007, 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. Bendix will provide without charge a check valve repair kit for the affected SR-7 spring brake modulating valves covered by this recall campaign.
8. 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 July 9, 2007. Once Bendix receives owner or aftermarket purchaser information from its distributors, and after NHTSA approval of its form of owner notification letter, Bendix will commence owner notification.
9. Bendix will reimburse any owner of a vehicle equipped with an affected SR-7™ spring brake modulating valve who incurred the cost of replacing the SR-7 valve after June 7, 2006 specifically to address the defect identified in this Defect Report, unless the owner 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.

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter  
June 7, 2007  
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Please advise us of the NHTSA notification campaign number assigned to this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony C. LaPlaca". The signature is written in black ink and includes a small circular mark at the end of the name.

Anthony C. LaPlaca  
Vice President and General Counsel

ACL:amh

Attachments

**Attachment A**

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

<b><u>OE Part Numbers</u></b>	<b><u>Aftermarket Part Numbers</u></b>
5010914	801328
5010916	801329
5010917	801536
5011180	801569
5011671	801570
5012045	801571
5012046	802538
5012100	801898
5012472	5019465
5012489	5019466
5012568	5019468
5012569	5019469
5012615	
5012616	
5012836	
5013055	
5015302	
5015677	
5016270	
5016271	
5017103	
5017233	

**Attachment B**

**Vehicle Manufacturers**

<b>VEHICLE OEM</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP CODE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>
AUTOCAR LLC	551 EAST MAIN ST.	HAGERSTOWN	IN	47346	USA	
BLUE BIRD BODY CO.	402 BLUE BIRD BLVD.	FORT VALLEY	GA	31030	USA	478-822-2242
FREIGHTLINER LLC	4747 N. CHANNEL AVE.	PORTLAND	OR	97217	USA	503-745-5219
GENERAL MOTORS	30001 VAN DYKE AVE.	WARREN	MI	48090	USA	586-575-4347
INTERNATIONAL TRUCK & ENGINE CORP.	2911 MEYER RD.	FT. WAYNE	IN	46803	USA	260-461-1890
KOVATCH MOBILE EQUIPMENT CO.	1 INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX	NESQUEHONING	PA	18240	USA	570-669-9461
LINK-BELT CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT CO.	2651 PALUMBO DR.	LEXINGTON	KY	40509	USA	859-263-5200 X-6499
MACK TRUCKS INC.	c/o VOLVO TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA 7900 NATIONAL SERVICE ROAD	GREENSBORO	NC	27409	USA	336-393-2233
NEWELL COACH CORPORATION	P.O. BOX 511 NORTH HIGHWAY 69	MIAMI	OK	74355	USA	918-542-3344 X-267
OSHKOSH TRUCK CORP.	2307 OREGON STREET	OSHKOSH	WI	54903-2566	USA	
PIERCE MANUFACTURING INC.	2600 AMERICAN DRIVE	APPLETON	WI	54912-2017	USA	
PREVOST CAR INC.	35 BLVD. GAGNON	QUEBEC	QUEBEC	G0R 2V0	CAN	418-883-2888 X-6563
PROTECTED VEHICLES INC.	1210 TRUXTUN AVE.	NORTH CHARLESTON	SC	29405	USA	
ROSENBAUER MOTORS/GENERAL SAFETY	5181 260 <sup>TH</sup> ST.	WYOMING	MN	55092	USA	
SELECT TRUCKS REFURBISH CTR.	450 S. GARNET ST., BLDG. 619	TOOELE	UT	84074	USA	
SPARTAN MOTORS, INC.	1549 MIKESELL RD.	CHARLOTTE	MI	48813	USA	
SST TRUCK COMPANY	4030 FOREST LANE	GARLAND	TX	75042	USA	
THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC.	1408 COURTESY RD.	HIGH POINT	NC	27260	USA	336-881-6007



**Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**  
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June 7, 2007

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL #7002 3150 0004 6125 3610  
and VIA TELECOPY (202) 366-7882**

Ms. Kathleen DeMeter  
Chief, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NSA – 10)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Information Report  
*Parker Single Check Valve*

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 a brass 90° single check valve produced by Parker Hannifin (the "Parker SCV") which attaches to the supply port of a Bendix® SR-7™ spring brake modulating valve. Bendix also sells the Parker SCV separately as Part Number 5010889 for attachment to the SR-7 valve by the vehicle manufacturer. A list of the applicable SR-7 valve part numbers which include the Parker SCV is attached as Attachment A. The entire population of Parker SCV's sold by Bendix since July 2002 is potentially defective.
3. The total number of potentially affected Parker SCV units sold by Bendix worldwide (either as part of an SR-7 valve, or that were sold separately for attachment to an SR-7 valve by the OEM) and included in this recall campaign is 156,140. Some of the units were sold for OEM applications on new motor vehicles and some were sold for aftermarket replacement equipment. Bendix shall provide NHTSA with a supplement to this report within the next two weeks to reflect its OEM and aftermarket sales for the Parker SCV in the United States.
4. Attached hereto as Attachment B is a list of the names, addresses, and, where known, telephone numbers of each vehicle manufacturer to which Bendix sold Parker SCV's for SR-7 valve applications for installation or use on new motor vehicles in the United States.
5. Bendix has determined that a defect exists in the Parker single check valve that connects with the supply port of the SR-7 spring brake modulating valve. After prolonged use of the Parker SCV the valve body retainer may become excessively worn and eventually break apart. Pieces of the Parker SCV can become lodged inside the SR-7 spring brake modulating valve, potentially causing either leakage out of the SR-7 valve or preventing air from properly exhausting from the



Ms. Kathleen DeMeter

June 7, 2007

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SR-7 valve. This condition can cause a delay in the application of the spring brakes to park the vehicle after the operator pulls the dash valve button, spring brakes not fully releasing or loss of isolation between the primary and secondary circuits. These conditions can occur without warning, leading to unintended vehicle rollaway, brake drag, or in case of loss of primary circuit, inability to modulate the spring brakes. Normal service braking is not affected by this condition. Bendix estimates that the wear-through breakage can occur after a year or more of service. There have been no reports of any accidents or injuries related to this issue.

6. In December 2006, as part of its on-going investigation of leakage in the internal check valve of the SR-7 valve, which is identified in a separate Defect Report filed with NHTSA on this date, Bendix discovered pieces of the Parker SCV inside of SR-7 valves returned under warranty. Bendix immediately launched another investigation. In March 2007, Bendix identified that spring rotation can cause wear to the Parker SCV retainer which can eventually lead to retainer breakage. In April/May 2007, the investigation intensified, but was complicated by the concurrent investigation of the internal SR-7 check valve leakage identified in a separate Defect Report filed with NHTSA on this date. On May 31, 2007, Bendix decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists with respect to the Parker single check valves which are used in the supply port of a SR-7 spring brake modulating valve.
7. Bendix will provide without charge a replacement single check valve for the affected units used in connection with SR-7 spring brake modulating valves.
8. 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 July 9, 2007. Once Bendix receives owner or aftermarket purchaser information from its distributors, and after NHTSA approval of its form of owner notification letter, Bendix will commence owner notification.
9. Bendix will reimburse any owner of a vehicle equipped with an affected Parker SCV in the supply port of an SR-7 valve who incurred the cost of replacing the Parker SCV after June 7, 2006 specifically to address the defect identified in this Defect Report, unless the owner 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 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 Valves Equipped with a  
Parker 90° Single Check Valve**

**Part Numbers**

<b><u>OE Part Numbers</u></b>	<b><u>Aftermarket Part Numbers</u></b>
5010914	
5010915	
5010916	
5010917	
5011671	
5012045	8012120
5012472	
5012836	
5016270	
5016271	
5017103	
5017233	

**Attachment B**

**Vehicle Manufacturers**

<b>VEHICLE OEM</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP CODE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>
BLUE BIRD BODY CO.	402 BLUE BIRD BLVD.	FORT VALLEY	GA	31030	USA	478-822-2242
FREIGHTLINER LLC	4747 N. CHANNEL AVE.	PORTLAND	OR	97217	USA	503-745-5219
OSHKOSH TRUCK CORP.	2307 OREGON STREET	OSHKOSH	WI	54903-2566	USA	
NABI, INC.	106 BUS PKWY.	ANNISTON	AL	36207	USA	
SELECT TRUCKS REFURBISH CTR	450 S. GARNET ST., BLDG 619	TOOELE	UT	84074	USA	
GENERAL MOTORS	30001 VAN DYKE AVE.	WARREN	MI	48090	USA	586-575-4347
LINK-BELT CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT CO.	2651 PALUMBO DR.	LEXINGTON	KY	40509	USA	859-263-5200 X-6499
NEWELL COACH CORPORATION	P.O. BOX 511 NORTH HIGHWAY 69	MIAMI	OK	74355	USA	918-542-3344 X-267
MACK TRUCKS INC.	c/o VOLVO TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA 7900 NATIONAL SERVICE ROAD	GREENSBORO	NC	27409	USA	336-393-2233
KOVATCH MOBILE EQUIPMENT CO.	1 INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX	NESQUEHONING	PA	18240	USA	570-669-9461
THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC.	1408 COURTESY RD.	HIGH POINT	NC	27260	USA	336-881-6007
PREVOST CAR INC.	35 BLVD. GAGNON	QUEBEC	QUEBEC	G0R 2V0	CAN	418-883-2888 X-6563
SPARTAN MOTORS INC.	1549 MIKESELL RD.	CHARLOTTE	MI	48813	USA	