U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 13-001
Prompted by: 13E-011
Date Opened: 04/25/2013
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Brake fluid level indicator may fail

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Robert Bosch LLC
Products: Hydro-max master cylinder
Population: 4,365 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The brake fluid level indicator may fail and the driver may be unaware that the brake fluid level is low. A low brake fluid level may reduce the available braking force which could lengthen the required stopping distance and increase the risk of a crash.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is opened.

Summary:

On February 20, 2013, Navistar, Inc. (Navistar) notified the NHTSA that it had decided a defect exists in certain model year (MY) 2011 and 2012 Workhorse W42, and MY 2011 and 2012 Workhorse W62 commercial trucks, manufactured from July 18, 2011 through July 12, 2012, and equipped with hydraulic brakes. The brake fluid level indicator may not properly detect a low brake fluid level situation and may not warn the driver, increasing the risk of a crash. This matter was assigned recall number 13V-054.

On February 26, 2013, Robert Bosch LLC (Bosch) notified the NHTSA that it had decided a defect exists in certain Hydro-Max brake master cylinders with 2.0 inch bore and 84 cubic inch reservoir, equipped with a brake fluid level indicator switch and without a differential pressure switch, manufactured between July 1, 2011 and April 12, 2012. The brake fluid level indicator may not properly detect a low brake fluid level situation and may not warn the driver, increasing the risk of a crash. This matter was assigned recall number 13E-011.

Bosch has supplied the NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying at least 5 other manufacturers that may have incorporated these Hydro-Max master cylinders into motor vehicles. However, a Part 573 Report has not been filed by these potentially affected vehicle manufacturers at this time.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the companies that purchased the Bosch Hydro-Max master cylinders, notify them of this defect and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.