U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: PE 13-012
Date Opened: 04/26/2013
Investigator: Kyle Bowker **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Single Wheel End Thermal Overload

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BENDIX SPICER FOUNDATION BRAKE LLC
Products: Certain MY 2012-2013 Trucks with Bendix Air Disc Brakes
Population: 5,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Alleged single wheel end thermal overload events on steer axles reportedly caused by faulty air disc brake calipers that seize, possibly due to improper slack adjustment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	Confidential	Confidential

***Description of Other:** Early Warning Reporting (EWR) field reports

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

Through regular communications with heavy truck fleets, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has identified a potential issue involving single wheel end thermal overload events on certain model year (MY) 2012-2013 trucks originally equipped with Bendix air disc brakes on the steer axles. ODI has also received Early Warning Reporting (EWR) field report data related to this issue. These events are reported to have occurred on vehicles with relatively low mileage and may be caused by a faulty air disc brake caliper that seized, possibly due to improper slack adjustment. This condition may result in extended stopping distances and/or fire.

Bendix has also released a document titled "Checklist for Identifying Single Wheel End Thermal Overload" that indicates they have experienced some level of warranty activity for this issue.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to further analyze the scope, frequency, and consequence of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.