U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Investigation: PE20003
Prompted By: Tip from fleet operator
Date Opened: 04/01/2020 **Date Closed:** 01/10/2024
Investigator: Kyle Bowker **Reviewer:** Joshua Neff
Approver: Tanya Topka
Subject: Vehicle Roll Away

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Mack Trucks, Inc.

Affected Manufacturers: Autocar Industries, LLC, Autocar, LLC

Products: 2008-2020 AUTOCAR ACX (XPEDITOR), 2012-2020 AUTOCAR ACMD (XPERT), 2010-2020 AUTOCAR ACTT (XSPOTTER), 2008-2010 AUTOCAR WX, 2008-2010 AUTOCAR WXLL, 2008-2019 MACK TERRAPRO (MRU), 2019-2022 MACK TERRAPRO (TE)

Population: 31,554

Problem Description: A restriction at the park brake control valve exhaust port, when combined with an internal valve leak due to normal wear and tear, may allow back-pressure to inadvertently send a signal to release the parking brakes, which may result in a vehicle roll away event.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	0	5	0	0	5	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	4	0	0	4	0
Injury Incidents:	0	1	0	0	1	0
Number of Injuries:	0	1	0	0	1	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Fatalities:	0	0	0	0	0	0

Description of Other:

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This (PE) Preliminary Evaluation is closed with 21V953, 23V023. Communications strategy by Bendix.

Summary:

On April 1, 2020, following information received from the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) network of fleet contacts, ODI opened PE20-003 to investigate reports of vehicle roll away in certain model year (MY) 2008-2020 Autocar and Mack refuse trucks equipped with certain Bendix PP-1 push-pull pneumatic park brake control valves with a pipe-away exhaust configuration. Prior to ODI's investigation,[KK(1] Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix), the subject component manufacturer, published two related technical service bulletins (TSBs): Bendix Push-Pull Type Control Valves Service Data SD-03-3611 Rev. 007 (2019-03) and Bendix PP-1 & PP-8 Park Control Valve Wear and Replacement Notice Technical Bulletin TCH-003-056 (2019-11-20).

ODI sent Information Request (IR) letters to motor vehicle manufacturers Autocar LLC (Autocar) and Volvo Trucks North America/Mack Trucks, Inc. (Volvo/Mack) and motor vehicle equipment manufacturer Bendix. IR response data from all three manufacturers was analyzed and cross-referenced to gain further understanding. To date, ODI is aware of 5 vehicle roll-away incidents related to the alleged defect condition in the subject vehicles equipped with the subject components, resulting in 4 crashes and 1 injury.

On December 9, 2021, Volvo/Mack notified the agency of a safety recall (21V953) to address a safety defect in certain MY 2008-2019 TerraPro (MRU) and MY 2019-2022 TerraPro (TE) trucks originally equipped with the subject components. [KK(2] On January 1, 2023, Autocar notified the agency of a safety recall (23V023) to address a safety defect in certain MY 2008-2020 ACX (Xpeditor), MY 2012-2020 ACMD (Xpert), MY 2010-2020 ACTT (Xspotter), MY 2008-2010 WX and MY 2008-2010 WXLL trucks. Volvo/Mack and Autocar's recall remedies involve removing the vent line fitting threaded into the exhaust port of the subject PP-1 valve. [VD(3] Both Autocar and Mack have stopped equipping new refuse trucks with park control valves using the exhaust pipe-away configuration.

After discussions between ODI and Bendix concerning ways to prevent new PP-1 valves from being sold and installed with a potential for the exhaust to become restricted, Bendix will take the following actions: 1) issue a letter to all original equipment (OE) customers with important safety information warning them about the safety risk of attaching plumbing to the exhaust port when the subject component is used as a park control valve; and 2) affix a warning label on all aftermarket parts warning not to install pipe-away exhaust port plumbing. In view of the recalls being conducted by Volvo/Mack and Autocar, and the actions taken by Bendix, ODI has closed this Preliminary Evaluation.

The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist in equipment or other model or MY vehicles that have not been recalled. The agency reserves the right to take further action if warranted.