



American Truck Company  
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Fort Wayne, IN 46818  
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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

**Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

07V-301  
(4 pges)

Report Date: 6 July 2007

ATC Defect Code: 806001

Description: Bendix SR7 Valve Recall

Submitted to: Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Manufacturer: American Truck Company  
Identification: 7727 Freedom Way  
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Contact for Recall: Paul Conlin, Technical Director  
(888) 282-4685

Report Prepared by: Paul Conlin, Technical Director

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part I: Identify Vehicle Models Involved in Recall

**Make:** American Truck (ATC)  
**Models:** 6x6  
**Model Years:** 2004 to 2006  
**Model Types:** Cab-chassis, standard cab  
Cab-chassis, extended cab  
**Weight Classes:** Class 8 / 60,000 to 75,000 GVWR

## Part II: Identify Vehicle Population Involved in Recall

**Production Dates:** 1 August 2003 to 31 December 2005

### Identification Criteria:

Vehicles involved in recall identified using production records and Bill Of Material documentation. 100% of the following vehicles are subject to this recall:

Model Year	Model Type	# Vehicles Involved
2003	6x6, cab-chassis, crew cab	1
2004	6x6, cab-chassis, standard cab	3
2004	6x6, cab-chassis, crew cab	4
2005	6x6, cab-chassis, crew cab	3
<b>Total number potentially affected by recall:</b>		<b>11</b>

## Part III: Description of Defect

**Defect Description:** Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems has identified two defects involving their SR-7 air brake modulating valve used in the air brake systems of certain American Truck vehicles. This valve controls the parking (spring) brakes. The first defect is with the internal mechanism of the SR-7 valve. The second defect is with a Single Check Valve (SCV) fitting that is external to, but part of, the SR-7 valve assembly.

The SR-7 valve is located on the frame cross member between axles 2 and 3. The SCV fitting is on the air supply port of the SR-7 valve. This fitting manufactured by the Parker company and is embossed with their stylized 'P' logo. American Truck considers the SCV fitting part of the SR-7 assembly as the fitting is not sold or serviced separately by American Truck and consequences of either failure is improper operation of the parking brakes. Bendix filed two Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports with NHTSA as they sell the SR-7 and SCV valves both together and as separate parts.

***Bendix SR-7 Defect Report NHTSA Campaign Number 07E-037***

***Bendix SCV Defect Report NHTSA Campaign Number 07E-038***

**Cause(s):** Bendix has identified manufacturing defects in both the SR-7 valve itself and with the Single Check Valve (SCV) fitting. The SR-7 defect is caused by an

unauthorized change a sub-supplier made to their manufacturing process used on an internal valve. This may result in the internal valve seat becoming deformed over time and eventually not closing properly. The internal components of the SCV may become excessively worn after prolonged use and eventually break apart. Pieces of the SCV can become lodged inside the SR-7 valve causing the SR-7 to malfunction.

**Consequence(s):** The effect of each of these defects is the potential delay, or failure to apply the parking brakes resulting in a potential vehicle roll away. Additionally, the check valve defect may result in failure of the parking brakes to release, causing dragging brakes on the vehicle. Normal service braking is not affected by either of these defects.

**Warning(s):** Valve may malfunction without warning or prior symptoms. Malfunction may be intermittent.

#### **Sub-Supplier Identification:**

**Component name:** Bendix SR-7 spring brake modulating valve

**Supplier part number:** 5010916

Note: Although the SCV fitting is external to the SR-7 valve and Bendix does sell it as a separate part, American Truck considers the SCV fitting part of the SR-7 valve assembly that is not service or sold separately.

**Supplier:** Bendix Commercial Vehicles Systems LLC  
901 Cleveland St, Elyria, OH 44035  
(440) 329-9000

**Supplier Contact(s):** 1) Bendix Recall Assistance Center (877) 461-2732  
2) Dave Schultz (440) 329-9468

#### **Part IV: Defect Chronology**

- 19 June 2007 Bendix notified American Truck of potential SR-7 defects
- 29 June 2007 American Truck confirmed with Bendix which SR-7 valves are used in ATC trucks and that they are subject to this recall
- 2 July 2007 All ATC trucks subject to this recall are identified
- 6 July 2007 American Truck notifies NHTSA of ATC vehicle population involved with Bendix SR-7 recall
- 6 July 2007 American Truck has no knowledge of any SR-7 malfunctions on any ATC trucks.

#### **Part V: Defect Remedy**

Bendix has developed a "retrofit kit" to upgrade the SR-7 valves in the field. All trucks covered by this recall campaign will be upgraded. The repair kit consists of 1) a cartridge that replaces the internals of the SR-7 valve, 2) a new fitting that replaces the SCV fitting on the supply port of the SR-7 valve, and 3) detailed inspection and retrofit installation instructions.

The materials used in the new SR-7 internals have been made to the proper specifications. The internals have also been upgraded to include a second valve to provide redundant valve operation. The SCV has been upgraded to provide longer service life and the retention mechanism has been improved to prevent failed valve components from entering and contaminating the SR-7 valve.

**Distinguishing Characteristics of Remedy Components:** The Bendix retrofit kit includes a 'green'-colored plastic tie wrap that will be used to label SR-7 valves which have received the update. Also, replacement SCV fittings will come with a black plastic identification ring to show they are of the new design. The green tie wrap and identification rings will be obvious to any service technician looking at the outside of the SR-7 valve installed on a truck.

**Defect Correction for Future Production:** American Truck has purged all existing SR-7 valves from inventory. All future trucks will be assembled with SR-7 valves that came from Bendix with the updated internals and with the updated SCV fittings.

## **Part VI: Recall Schedule**

- 6 July 2007** ATC notifies NHTSA of ATC vehicle population involved with Bendix SR-7 recall
- 6 July 2007** ATC submits end-customer notification letter DRAFT to NHTSA for approval
- 13 July 2007** ATC will send end-customer notification letters for ATC trucks subject to recall
- (est.) 16 July 2007** Bendix will start shipping SR-7 valve repair kits
- ASAP** ATC will start shipping SR-7 valve repair kits to end-customers as soon as possible after receiving kits from Bendix
- 30 September 2007** First quarterly progress report will be sent to NHTSA

## **Part VII: Recall Communication**

A DRAFT copy of American Truck Company's end-customer recall notification letter will be submitted to NHTSA for review and approval under separate cover.

-- END OF PART 573 DEFECT REPORT --