

FREIGHTLINER
LLC

A DaimlerChrysler Company



Nasser Zamani
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July 19, 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-497), NHTSA 07V-234, Supplemental No.: 1

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information.

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

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 317

(c) (8) Remedial program: Dealer notifications were completed July 10, 2007.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Owner notifications were mailed July 12, 2007.

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: See Attached

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Certified Mail# 7002 3150 0004 1405 1034

Subject: FCCC FS/FB65 Brake and Coolant Line Interference

Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Custom Chassis FB65 shuttle bus chassis and FS65 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner) manufactured between August 11, 2005, and July 3, 2006, with hydraulic brakes and Caterpillar C7 engines.

General Information

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on the vehicles mentioned above.

There are approximately 500 vehicles involved in this campaign.

The right front hydraulic brake line may have been improperly secured during manufacture, allowing the brake line to contact engine coolant plumbing components. Continued contact may lead to a loss of brake fluid and reduced brake performance, resulting in a possible vehicle crash without prior warning.

The brake line will be inspected to ensure it is properly secured. Brake lines that show signs of continued contact with engine plumbing components will be replaced. It is estimated that fewer than 25 percent of vehicles will need more than the inspection.

Additional Repairs

Dealers must complete all outstanding recall and field service campaigns prior to the sale or delivery of a vehicle. A Dealer will be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns before sale or delivery of a vehicle.

Owners may be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns within a reasonable time after receiving notification.

Work Instructions

Please refer to the attached work instructions. Prior to performing the campaign, check the vehicle for a completion sticker (Form WAR260).

Replacement Parts

Given the limited need for replacement parts, formal kits will not be used for this campaign. When replacements are needed, please order the appropriate brake line or clamps for the vehicle from your facing Parts Distribution Center. Appropriate DOT 3[®] brake fluid may be claimed when replacing a brake line (estimated at up to one pint).

If our records show your dealership has ordered any vehicles involved in campaign number FL497A, a list of the customers and vehicle identification numbers will be available on AccessFreightliner.com. Please refer to this list when ordering parts for this recall. If your local customers are involved and you expect to be performing this Recall, it is suggested that you keep a brake line on hand in order to assist customers without delay and avoid unnecessary freight charges.

Removed Parts

Please follow Warranty Failed Parts Tracking shipping instructions for the disposition of all removed parts.

Recall Campaign

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FL497A
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Labor Allowance

Table 1 - Labor Allowance

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code	Damage Code
FL497A	Inspect right front brake line routing and brake line	0.2	996-0714A	000-Inspected
	Inspect right front brake line routing and brake line and adjust routing	0.4	996-0714B	000-Modifiedx
	Inspect right front brake line routing and brake line and replace brake line	1.4	996-0714C	000-Modifiedx

Table 1

IMPORTANT: When the recall has been completed, locate the base completion label in the appropriate location on the vehicle, and attach the red completion sticker provided in the recall kit (Form WAR260). If the vehicle does not have a base completion label, clean a spot on the appropriate location of the vehicle and first attach the base completion label (Form WAR259). If a recall kit is not required or there is no completion sticker in the kit, write the recall number on a blank sticker and attach it to the base completion label.

Claims for Credit

You will be reimbursed for your parts, labor, and handling by submitting your claim through the Warranty system within 30 days of completing this campaign. Please reference the following information in QuickClaim[®]:

- Claim type is **Recall**.
- In the FTL Authorization field, enter the campaign number and appropriate condition code (**FL497A**).
- In the Primary Failed Part Number field, enter **25-FL497-000**.
- It is estimated that fewer than 25 percent of vehicles will need more than the inspection. Given the limited need for replacement parts, formal kits will not be used for this campaign. When replacements are needed, please order the appropriate brake line or clamps for the vehicle from your facing Parts Distribution Center. Appropriate DOT 3[®] brake fluid may be claimed when replacing a brake line (estimated at up to one pint).

If your local customers are involved and you expect to be performing this Recall, it is suggested that you keep a brake line on hand in order to assist customers without delay and avoid unnecessary freight charges.

- In the Labor field, first enter the appropriate SRT from the Labor Allowance Table. For administrative time, enter SRT 939-0010A 0.3 hours.

IMPORTANT: ServicePro[®] must be viewed prior to performing the recall to ensure the vehicle is involved and the campaign has not been previously completed. Also, check for a completion sticker prior to beginning work.

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, Web inquiry at AccessFreightliner.com / Support / Submit an Inquiry, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

To return excess kit inventory related to this campaign, U.S. dealers must submit a Parts Authorization Return (PAR) to the Memphis PDC. Canadian dealers must submit a PAR to their facing PDC. All kits must be in resalable condition. PAR requests must include the original purchase invoice number.

The letter notifying vehicle owners is included for your reference.

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Please note that the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended (Title 49, United States Code, Chapter 301), requires the owner's vehicle(s) be corrected within a reasonable time after parts are available to you. The Act states that failure to repair a vehicle within 60 days after tender for repair shall be prima facie evidence of an unreasonable time. However, circumstances of a particular situation may reduce the 60 day period. Failure to repair a vehicle within a reasonable time can result in either the obligation to (a) replace the vehicle with an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle, without charge, or (b) refund the purchase price in full, less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. The Act further prohibits dealers from selling a vehicle unless all outstanding recalls are performed. Also, any lessor is required to send a copy of the recall notification to the lessee.

Recall Campaign



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Copy of Letter to Owner

Subject: FCCC FS/FB65 Brake and Coolant Line Interference

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. This notice is also sent in accordance with the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner Custom Chassis FB65 shuttle bus chassis and FS65 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner) manufactured between August 11, 2005, and July 3, 2006, with hydraulic brakes and Caterpillar C7 engines.

The right front hydraulic brake line may have been improperly secured during manufacture, allowing the brake line to contact engine coolant plumbing components. Continued contact may lead to a loss of brake fluid and reduced brake performance, resulting in a possible vehicle crash without prior warning.

The brake line will be inspected to ensure it is properly secured. Brake lines that show signs of continued contact with engine plumbing components will be replaced.

Parts are now available for authorized dealers to order. Contact your authorized dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) modified and to assure that parts are available at the dealer. To locate a dealer, search online at www.FreightlinerTrucks.com or contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for assistance.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL497A**. Once parts are available at the dealership, the Recall will take between approximately half an hour and two hours, depending on the work needed, and will be performed at no charge to you.

IMPORTANT: When the Recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL497A**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s) which appears on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Warranty Campaigns Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you are not able to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may wish to notify Transport Canada, ASFAD, Place de Ville Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5, or phone (800) 333-0510.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Work Instructions

Subject: FCCC FS/FB65 Brake and Coolant Line Interference

Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Custom Chassis FB65 shuttle bus chassis and FS65 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner) manufactured between August 11, 2005, and July 3, 2006, with hydraulic brakes and Caterpillar C7 engines.

NOTE: Given the limited need for replacement parts, formal kits will not be used for this campaign. When replacements are needed, please order the appropriate brake line or clamps for the vehicle from your facing Parts Distribution Center. Appropriate DOT3® brake fluid may be claimed when replacing a brake line (estimated at up to one pint). If your local customers are involved and you expect to be performing this Recall, it is suggested that you keep a brake line on hand in order to assist customers without delay and avoid unnecessary freight charges.

Hydraulic Brake Line Inspection

1. Check the base label (Form WAR259) for a completion sticker for FL497 (Form WAR260) indicating this work has been done. The base label is usually located above the driver's window. If a sticker is present for Recall FL497, no further work needs to be done. If there is no sticker, proceed with the steps below.
2. Park the vehicle on a level surface, apply the parking brakes, shut down the engine, and chock the tires.
3. Open the hood.
4. With the engine off, inspect for the following (see **Fig. 1**):
 - signs of rubbing (line abrasion) between the hydraulic brake line and other engine plumbing components;
 - a minimum clearance of 1/2 inch (13 mm) between the hydraulic brake line and other engine plumbing components;
 - loose hydraulic brake line P-clamps.
5. If none of the above problems are found, go to step 6.

If there are signs of line abrasion, the hydraulic brake line must be replaced; go to "Hydraulic Brake Line Replacement" in these Work Instructions.

If there are no signs of line abrasion, but there is less than the minimum clearance between the hydraulic brake line and the engine plumbing components or the P-clamps are loose, go to "Hydraulic Brake Line Adjustment" in these Work Instructions.
6. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259), write the recall number on a blank, red completion sticker (Form WAR260) and attach it to the base label.
7. Lower the hood and remove the chocks from the tires.

Hydraulic Brake Line Adjustment

1. If there are loose P-clamps but no visible damage, tighten the P-clamps, then go to the next step.

If there is not a minimum clearance of 1/2 inch (13 mm) between the hydraulic brake line and other engine components, loosen the four P-clamps located on the engine front crossmember, adjust the brake line to provide the needed clearance, then tighten the P-clamps.

IMPORTANT: Do not bend the hydraulic brake line.

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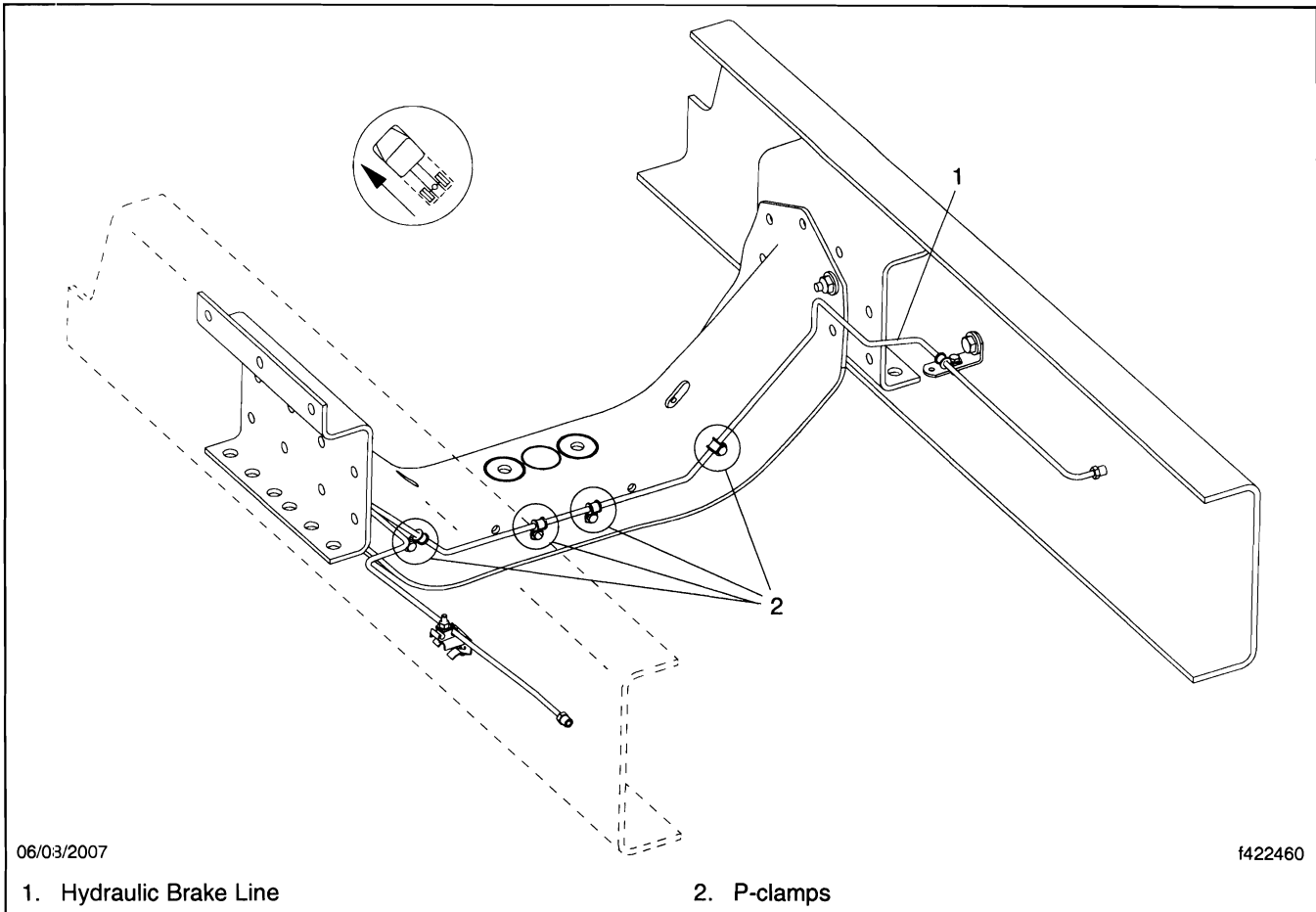


Fig. 1, Hydraulic Brake Line Routing

2. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259), write the recall number on a blank, red completion sticker (From WAR260) and attach it to the base label.
3. Lower the hood and remove the chocks from the tires.

Hydraulic Brake Line Replacement

1. As needed, remove any brackets or P-clamps that are holding the brake line to the frame or axle (retain for later reinstallation), so that you can remove the damaged section of the hydraulic brake line.
2. Place a container under the connection on one side of the hydraulic brake line, then disconnect the line. Plug both ends of the connection.
Repeat this step at the connection at the other end of the brake line that is being replaced.
3. Remove the plugs installed earlier, then install the new brake line and tighten the connections 15 lbf-ft (20 N·m).
4. Install any brackets or P-clamps that were removed.

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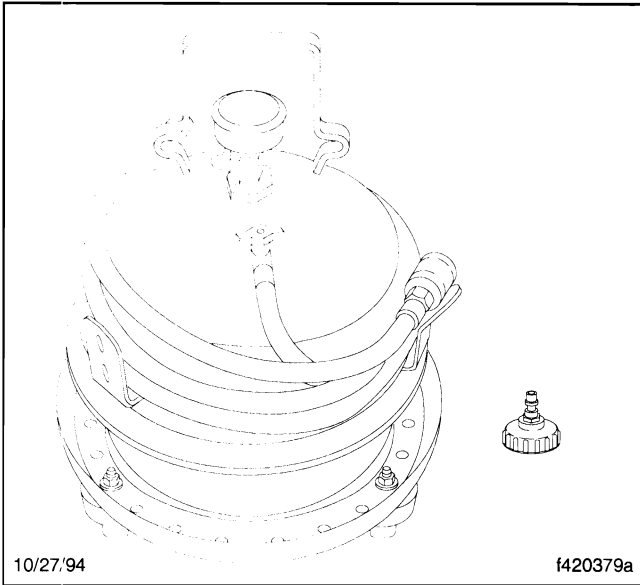


Fig. 2, Pressure Bleeder Kit

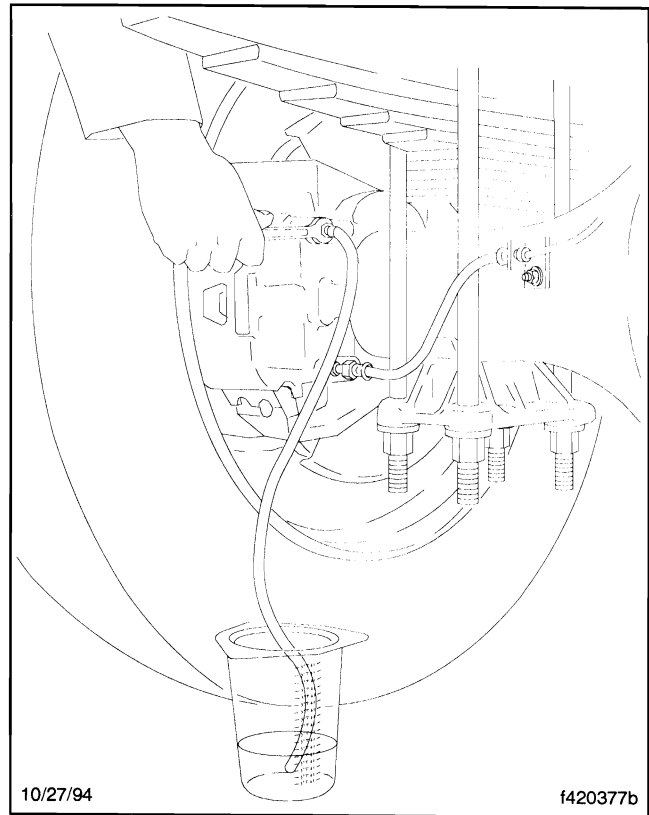


Fig. 3, Bleeding the Connections at the Rear Wheel Calipers

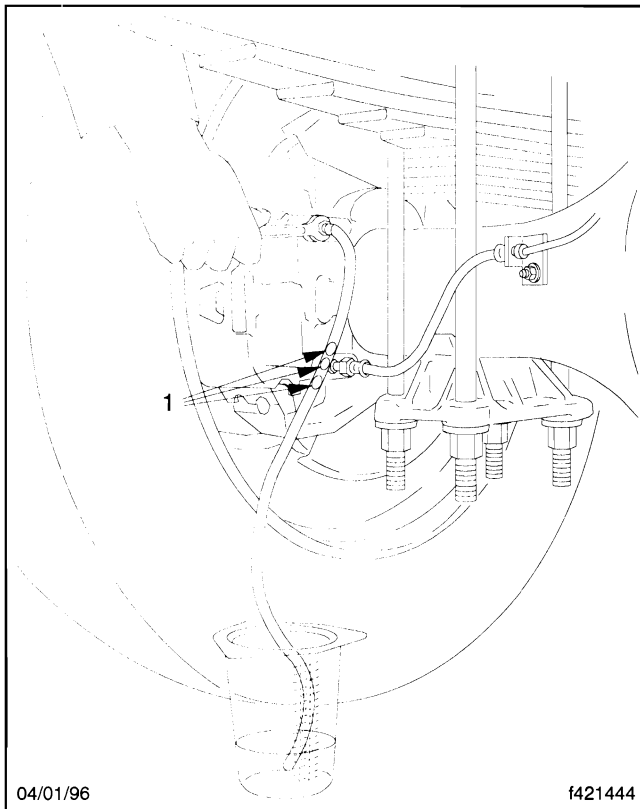


Fig. 4, Loosening the Bleeder Fitting Until the Air Bubbles are Gone

6. Following the manufacturer's instructions, depressurize the pressure bleeder, and disconnect it from the master cylinder reservoir.
7. Check the brake fluid level in both compartments of the reservoir. Add new DOT 3 approved brake fluid if needed.
8. Check the operation of the brakes by depressing the brake pedal several times, until it feels firm and does not go all the way down to the floor.
9. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259), write the recall number on a blank, red completion sticker (From WAR260) and attach it to the base label.
10. Lower the hood and remove the chocks from the tires.

Manual Bleeding

IMPORTANT: Do not let the brake master cylinder fluid level get too low during manual bleeding operation. Keep the master cylinder reservoir filled with new, DOT 3 approved brake fluid. Failure to keep the brake reservoir filled could result in more air entering the system, making it impossible to effectively bleed the system.

1. Bleed the master cylinder, as follows.
 - 1.1 Using a wrench, and a rag to absorb leaking brake fluid, loosen the fitting at the rear outlet port on the master cylinder. See **Fig. 5**. Loosen the fitting about one full turn.
 - 1.2 Have someone push the brake pedal down slowly by hand, to the floor of the vehicle. Brake fluid and any air in the master cylinder will exit from the fitting.
 - 1.3 *With the brake pedal held down*, tighten the rear hydraulic line fitting firmly.

IMPORTANT: Do not release the brake pedal until the fitting is tightened, or more air will get into the system.

- 1.4 Release the brake pedal.
- 1.5 Loosen the fitting again, and repeat the steps for bleeding as required until no air escapes from the fitting and the brake pedal feels firm.
- 1.6 Check the brake fluid level in the rear compartment of the reservoir, then add new DOT 3 approved brake fluid if needed.
- 1.7 Using a wrench, and a rag to absorb leaking brake fluid, loosen the fitting at the front outlet port on the master cylinder. See **Fig. 6**. Loosen the fitting about one full turn.
- 1.8 Repeat the steps as required for the front outlet port.
- 1.9 Check the brake fluid level in the front compartment of the reservoir. Add new DOT 3 approved brake fluid if needed.
2. Bleed the hydraulic connections at the wheel calipers, as follows, starting at the right rear wheel caliper.
 - 2.1 Place a wrench on the bleeder fitting at the caliper, then attach a length of clear tubing to the bleeder fitting. Make sure the tube fits snugly. Submerge the tubing in a container of clean brake fluid. See **Fig. 3**.
 - 2.2 Loosen the bleeder fitting about 3/4 turn.
 - 2.3 Have someone slowly push the brake pedal to the floor, then *with the brake pedal depressed*, tighten the bleeder fitting.

IMPORTANT: Make sure the brake pedal stays depressed while tightening the fitting. If it is released before the fitting is tightened, more air will get into the system.