



24 July 2007

Equipment Repair Supervisor  
San Diego Fire Department  
3870 Kearny Villa Rd  
San Diego, CA 92123

### IMPORTANT RECALL INFORMATION

This is to inform you that the American Truck Company (ATC) notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the start of safety recall campaign associated with the air brake system in the ATC 6x6 trucks that you own. The campaign covers the Bendix SR-7 spring brake modulating valve manufactured by Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix). As required by law, ATC is notifying you that all your ATC trucks are affected by this recall. ATC is working with Bendix to provide you with the parts and procedures necessary to correct this issue.

***Problem Description:*** Bendix has determined that two defects relating to motor vehicle safety exist within the one SR-7 valve assembly, as follows:

- 1) The first defect involves the internal rubber check valves inside the Bendix SR-7 spring brake modulating valves manufactured from November 4, 2005 through April 17, 2007. A component supplier made unauthorized changes to its manufacturing process, which may cause intermittent improper seating in the check valve.
- 2) The second defect involves the brass 90° single check valve produced by Parker Hannifin (the "SCV") which connects to the supply port of the Bendix SR-7 spring brake modulating valve. After prolonged use, the SCV's valve body retainer may become excessively worn and eventually break apart. Bendix estimates that the wear-through breakage can occur after a year or more of service.

Bendix reports 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. Malfunctions may be intermittent. Additionally, Bendix reports the SCV 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 the two defect conditions.

Due to the off-road capabilities of the ATC truck, our customers are much more likely to park their vehicles on sloped terrain. ATC recommends you remind your operators of your existing policy to use manual wheel chocks whenever your trucks are left unattended without a driver in the drivers' seat.

There have been no reports of any injuries related to these issues. To date, ATC is not aware of any failures of the SR-7 valves on ATC trucks. These valves must be repaired on all trucks regardless of any failure, or lack of failures. These issues apply to all Bendix SR-7 valves, not just those sold to ATC. It is

unclear if the duty cycle of ATC trucks, which can be different than typical over-the-road trucks, increases or decreases the likelihood of either of these problems manifesting.

*Affected Trucks:* Our records indicate that you are responsible for the following trucks which are all included in this safety recall service campaign:

| VIN        | Chassis     | Cab  | Customer | Service Location |
|------------|-------------|------|----------|------------------|
| 1A9CB81AX4 | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | SDFD     | Truck 14         |
| 1A9CB81A55 | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | SDFD     | Truck 29         |
| 1A9CB81A75 | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | SDFD     | Truck 35         |

On your ATC vehicles, the SR-7 relay valve is located on the frame cross member between axles 2 and 3. It can be accessed from below the vehicle. The SCV is located on the supply port of the SR-7 valve. You have exactly one SR-7 valve on each truck.

**Next Steps:** Bendix is in the final stages of preparing a service campaign to repair the SR-7 valves. Bendix will provide a service kit to ATC with all parts necessary to rebuild the SR-7 valves. It will include a cartridge that can be inserted in the SR-7 valve housing to completely replace the internal components that may fail. A replacement SCV will also be included in the kit. Detailed instructions will be provided. This work is to be performed by a commercial heavy truck service facility certified to inspect and repair truck air brake systems. It is expected that this work can be completed by an experienced mechanic in less than one day. Upon receipt of a formal invoice, the parts and labor to perform this service campaign will be paid by ATC using our standard warranty procedures.

Bendix estimates the service kit will start shipping by the end of July 2007. ATC will supply one Bendix SR-7 service kit to you for each ATC truck that you own. ATC will forward these kits directly to your Kearny Villa Road service center shortly after we receive them from Bendix.

If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact ATC at 888-282-4685 or Bendix at 440-329-9000.

Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

ATC values our relationship with the City of San Diego Fire Department. We regret the inconvenience that may result from these circumstances and we sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Paul Conlin  
Technical Director  
American Truck Company  
(540) 219-5176  
conlin@americantruckco.com

cc: S&S Fire Apparatus



24 July 2007

Supervisory Fire Equipment Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management, National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S Development Ave  
Boise, ID 83705

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|-------------|-------------|------|----------|-------------------|
| 1A9C3BRA33  | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | BLM      | Elko NV           |
| 1A9CB81A64I | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | BLM      | Hines OR          |
| 1A9CB81A84I | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | BLM      | Grand Junction CO |
| 1A9CB81AX4  | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | BLM      | Idaho Falls ID    |
| 1A9CB81AX4  | 6x6 Class 8 | Crew | BLM      | Vernon UT         |
| 1A9SB81A14I | 6x6 Class 8 | Std  | BLM      | Lakeview OR       |
| 1A9SB81A34I | 6x6 Class 8 | Std  | BLM      | Vale OR           |
| 1A9SB81AX4  | 6x6 Class 8 | Std  | BLM      | St. George UT     |

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Sincerely,

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Technical Director  
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