



June 17, 2016

Via UPS Overnight Delivery

Vermeer Freeman Manufacturing Inc
420 S Hwy 81
Freeman, SD 57029

Dear Vermeer Freeman Manufacturing Inc,

IMPORTANT RECALL INFORMATION – RESPOND IMMEDIATELY

This is to inform you that Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the start of a voluntary safety recall campaign involving the Bendix® SR-5™ spring brake valve which is sold outright and is also included in Bendix® antilock braking (ABS) kits for trailers. The recall has been assigned number 16E045.

A copy of our May 10, 2016, Defect and Noncompliance Information Report submission to NHTSA can be found on the NHTSA web site (www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov) under recall number 16E045. As required by law, Bendix provided NHTSA a list of all vehicle manufacturer customers to whom Bendix sold the affected products. Vermeer Freeman Manufacturing Inc is one of the customers who may be affected by this recall.

IMPACTED PRODUCT

This recall includes all Bendix SR-5 trailer spring brake valves manufactured between January 1, 2014 and March 4, 2016. The SR-5 is a trailer only product so no powered vehicles (tractors) are impacted. This issue potentially affects any trailer that utilizes this valve. This action does not impact SR-5 spring brake valves manufactured prior to or after the stated dates.

Please refer to the Valve Identification Guideline enclosed with this document for complete details.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Under a combination of a unique set of circumstances, it is possible (though not probable) for an internal leakage to develop in the SR-5 unit, resulting in slow to apply spring brakes when parking the trailer. The leak is heard or observed at the supply (red) gladhand when uncoupled from the tractor. If coupled to a tractor, a leak may be heard from the exhaust of the park control valve (Bendix® MV-3™ dash control valve) or from the tractor protection valve.

If uncoupled, and the internal leakage presents itself, loss of air pressure in the trailer reservoir will result. If a high rate of leakage is observed from the supply gladhand or park control valve exhaust (as noted above), it is possible that the spring brakes will be slow to apply on the trailer. *Note: this issue presents no impact on the tractor brakes.*

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

First, we are providing you with this information to enable your business to determine whether there is a safety-related defect on your vehicles where the affected Bendix SR-5 spring brake valve has been installed.

Based on your determination you may need to file a Defect and Noncompliance Report to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with respect to new motor vehicles with an affected

Bendix® SR-5™ spring brake valve sold in the United States. A similar notification is required to Transport Canada for all impacted vehicles sold in Canada.

Next, your company must make a choice as to how it will administer this recall campaign.

We recommend that as an OEM, your company administer the activities associated with this campaign; however if desired, Bendix can administer the campaign on your behalf. Please complete and sign the enclosed Campaign Management Election Form – indicating your preference – and return it to Bendix by Friday, July 1, 2016.

- If you choose to have Bendix conduct the recall on your behalf, please compile a complete list of impacted customers, including names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and VIN/Customer Unit numbers. Return the completed materials to us by Friday, July 1, 2016. This list will be used only for the purpose of this recall and will enable our personnel to begin notifying vehicle owners of this recall effort. Even if you elect this option, you are still required to make the necessary governmental notices.

Should you elect to manage the recall effort internally, please complete and sign the enclosed Campaign Management Election Form – indicating your preference – and return it to Bendix by Friday, July 1, 2016. Guidance as to the activities and scope of administering the recall efforts are outlined in the Safety Recall Compendium, published by NHTSA and available online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>.

Our records indicate that Vermeer Freeman Manufacturing Inc purchased the following suspect SR-5 Spring Brakes valves or TABS-6 Kits from Bendix:

Bendix® Part Number	Quantity
K033088	46

For your convenience, the following is provided to help you in this recall process:

- a list of the affected Bendix SR-5 spring brake valve(s) purchased by your company by part number.
- a Bendix SR-5 Valve Identification Guideline to assist you in properly identifying impacted valves; and
- a Campaign Management Election Form that you must complete and indicate your preference for recall administration by Friday, July 1, 2016.

NEXT STEPS

A remedy is currently being finalized. When those details become available, Bendix will notify you of additional actions you should take.

The following actions can be taken by vehicle owners until the final remedy is available:

- When parking, drivers should always use the yellow “PARKING BRAKE” button to assure both the tractor and trailer (including yard tractors) are parked: do not park your vehicle using only the red “TRAILER AIR SUPPLY” button.
- **SPECIAL NOTE FOR IN-YARD MANEUVERING:** Park vehicle on level surfaces, lower the fifth wheel and ensure the landing gear is in contact with the ground prior to pulling away. As an additional precaution, wheel chocks are recommended.

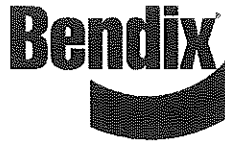
We value our business relationship with you. We regret the inconvenience that may result from these circumstances, and we sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Bendix Recall Assistance Center at 1-877-345-9526, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET, or email us at SR5campaign@bendix.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Kibe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brandon Kibe
Manager - Warranty and Product Safety

Encl.



Bendix® SR-5™ Spring Brake Valve Safety Recall Campaign Management Election Form

To assist you, our valued OEM customers, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) is offering to manage the administration of the SR-5 spring brake valve recall campaign – free of charge. We realize product recalls may put a strain on an organization's resources and personnel; therefore, please complete and return this form to Bendix to tell us how your company will administer the announced recall campaign.

Please note that as an OEM, your company has certain governmental notification requirements, including notifications to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and/or Transport Canada. While we can provide assistance, you must retain responsibility for these regulatory reporting obligations.

Please check the box next to the recall administration option selected by your organization and return this document to Bendix – via email or U.S. mail – no later than Friday, July 1, 2016.

- We elect to have Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems administer the recall campaign on our behalf.**
We have begun the task of recording a complete list of impacted customers – including names, addresses, phone, fax and VIN numbers – and will submit the list to Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems no later than July 1, 2016. We understand this list will be used only for the purposes of this recall and will enable Bendix personnel to begin notifying vehicle owners of this recall effort.
- Thank you, but our company elects to administer the recall campaign using our own personnel.**

Signature _____

Date: _____

Please Print

Your Name: _____

Your Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

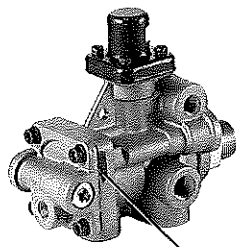
Return this signed and completed document by Friday, July 1, 2016 to the Bendix Product Action Center

By email: sr5campaign@bendix.com

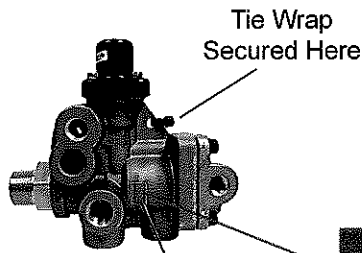
By Mail: Bendix Product Action Center • 901 Cleveland Street • Elyria, Ohio 44035 • USA

Action Required For Identifying the Recalled Bendix® SR-5™ Valve

How do I know if the valve has been replaced on my vehicle?



Date Code Location



Supplier Code Location



Bendix® SR-5™ Valve

To verify that the Bendix® SR-5™ valve has been repaired per the recall campaign, look for the presence of a black or green tie wrap secured to the valve body. *No further action is required.*

Green Tie Wrap (supplied in recall repair kit)

Identifying SR-5 valves covered in this field action

Valve Identification

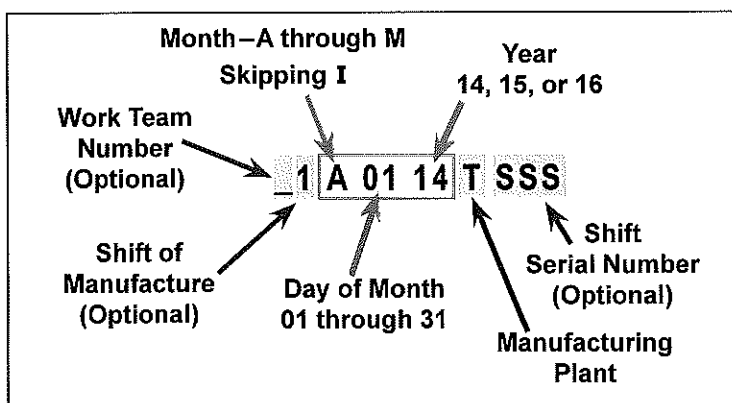
The Bendix SR-5 valves covered by this campaign can be identified by the supplier code and the date of manufacture located on the valve body. Verification of both is required to determine if the valve is a part of the campaign. Valves covered by this campaign must meet the following criteria:

1. The supplier code—"IKD"—cast in the body and located as shown in the illustration above; and
2. The date of manufacture between January 1, 2014 and March 4, 2016, inclusive. To verify the date code see *Interpreting the Date Code* below.

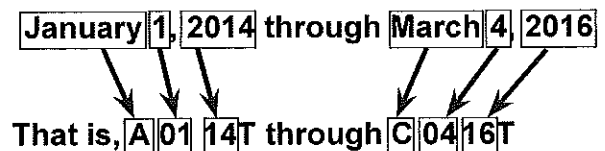
Interpreting the Date Code

A date code is stamped (not cast) on the SR-5 valve body housing. *Locate the date code – removing the paint coating, if necessary – to read the code.* Disregard the Work Team Number, Shift of Manufacture, Manufacturing Plant and Shift Serial Number codes shown in gray below. The portion of the date code that determines the date of manufacture is highlighted and can be interpreted as follows:

- The first field is the month (A=January, B=February, etc. – excluding the letter I – so that J=September, and so on),
- The next two fields are the day of the month (e.g. 01=1st); and
- The next two fields are the year (e.g. 14=2014)



Valves included in this field action were manufactured during the period:



For recall support, call the Recall Assistance Center at 1-877-345-9526
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday EDT

For technical support, call the Tech Team at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725)
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday EDT