

Vehicle Safety and Standards

BULLETIN

To All Designated Inspection Facilities and Authorized Inspectors

Re: Inspection of Air Brake Slack Adjusters

Background

On August 19, 2002, a Manual Notice was issued by the Manager of Vehicle Standards & Inspection to Provincial Inspection Facilities, Compliance Managers, Motor Vehicle Inspectors and Enforcement Agencies regarding to the inspection of automatic slack adjusters vs. manual slack adjusters. This notice references the Federal (Canada) manufacturing requirement that automatic slack adjusters are required on all air brake equipped vehicles manufactured after May 31, 1996, and indicates that there is no requirement to reject vehicles without automatic slack adjusters.

On August 30, 2010, the new Vehicle Inspection Regulation came into effect. In all applicable sections, the inspection item descriptor for slack adjusters is:

"Automatic slack adjusters and brake push-rod stroke indicators are mandatory on vehicles manufactured on or after May 31, 1996; not to be replaced with manual slack adjusters. With the assistance of a second party, make a treadle valve application and note push rod travel. NOTE: Ensure brake adjusters have been properly installed. Please refer to manufacturer's instructions as required."

This requirement is consistent with federal regulatory requirements and is applicable to air brake slack adjuster inspections as part of the Provincial Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program.

Effective August 30, 2010, the allowance for vehicles to be retro fitted with manual slack adjusters is revoked and the practice of equipping vehicles manufactured after May 31, 1996, with manual slack adjusters must cease. All vehicles equipped with manual slack adjusters contrary to the Vehicle Inspection Regulation requirement must be equipped with automatic slack adjusters prior to August 30, 2012.

Both Designated Inspection Facilities and Preventative Maintenance Inspection Facilities that conduct inspections on vehicles that are equipped with manual slack adjusters contrary to the Vehicle Inspection Regulation requirement as a result of a retrofit applied under the August 19, 2002, Manual Notice, must indicate the component as a "Pass with Caution" on the inspection report and note in the comment section that the manual slack adjusters must be changed to automatic slack adjusters prior to the next mandatory inspection interval. The vehicle may pass **one** Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program (CVIP) inspection if so equipped.

All vehicles manufactured after May 31, 1996, must be equipped with automatic slack adjusters by August 30, 2012, in order to pass the Provincial Inspection process.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the new Vehicle Inspection Regulation manual or any of the related documents, please contact your local area vehicle inspector found at http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/vehicle_inspections/PDF/MVI_Phone_List.pdf, or Brian.Kangas@gov.bc.ca by phone at 250-953-4008.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perry Dennis', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Perry Dennis
A/ Director
Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure