



# DRIVER SAFETY LETTER



## Brake Safety Week

August 2023

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) has scheduled this year's Brake Safety Week for August 20-26 with a special focus on brake lining and pad issues that may result in vehicle violations and could affect a motor carrier's safety rating.

Why the focus on brakes now? According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 32.7% of large trucks with pre-crash violations had brake problems. In addition, brake-related violations comprise the largest percentage of out-of-service vehicle violations.

During Brake Safety Week, commercial motor vehicle inspectors highlight the importance of brake systems by conducting inspections of their components and removing commercial motor vehicles found to have brake-related out-of-service violations from our roadways until those violations are corrected.

Throughout Brake Safety Week, CVSA-certified inspectors will conduct their usual inspections; however, in addition, they will be reporting brake-related inspection and violation data. When inspectors conduct the brake portion of a Level I, IV or V Inspection, they will:

- Check for missing, non-functioning, loose or cracked parts.
- Check for contaminated, worn, cracked and missing linings or pads.
- Check for S-cam flipover.
- Listen for audible air leaks around brake components and lines.
- Check that slack adjusters are the same length (from center of S-cam to center of clevis pin) and the air chambers on each axle are the same size.
- Ensure the brake system maintains air pressure between 90-100 psi (620-690 kPa) and measure pushrod travel.
- Inspect for non-manufactured holes (e.g., rust holes, holes created by rubbing or friction, etc.) and broken springs in the spring brake housing section of the parking brake.
- Inspect required brake system warning devices, such as anti-lock braking system (ABS) malfunction lamp(s) and low air-pressure warning devices.
- Inspect the tractor protection system, including the bleedback system on the trailer.
- Ensure the breakaway system is operable on the trailer.

Brake Safety Week provides a great opportunity for all of us to know exactly what inspectors will be checking during roadside inspections. It is a great reminder to take proactive steps to ensure their commercial motor vehicles are safe and compliant with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

Properly functioning brake systems are crucial to safe CMV operation. Brakes must be routinely inspected and carefully and consistently maintained so they operate and perform to the manufacturer's specifications throughout the life of the vehicle. Improperly installed or poorly maintained brake systems can reduce braking efficiency, posing serious risk to public safety on our roadways.