

Technical Bulletin

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Subject: **Protect Your Trailer Air System from Fibrous Contamination**

Nesting insects can introduce fibrous contaminants into a trailer's air system through open, unprotected glad hands while the trailer is uncoupled and parked. Many insects build their nests with fibrous materials such as wood shavings, airborne plant seeds and even old filters from cigarette butts. Ingestion of these contaminants into the trailer's air system can affect the flow of air. This is particularly true on trailers equipped with anti-lock brake systems (ABS). The orifices in ABS valves can become clogged with fibrous contaminants that can impede the control line air signal to the modulator/relay valve. This can result in reduced trailer braking performance. Over time, any unprotected trailer ABS modulator valve can be susceptible to this type of blockage and diminished performance.

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC recommends that all trailer manufacturers and end users of trailers take appropriate steps to protect the trailer air system from fibrous contamination due to nesting insects by equipping their trailers with appropriate protections to screen out fibrous contaminants.

Bendix recommends that end users and operators of ABS-equipped trailers include the following as part of their routine operating and maintenance practices:

- Ensure the gladhand covers are properly operating and adequately cover the air passage when uncoupling the trailer.
- Gladhand screens should be visually inspected each time the gladhands are coupled.
- If the screens or covers are not functioning properly or are missing:
 - ensure fibrous contaminants have not entered the air system;
 - pay particular attention during pre-trip inspection to verifying proper trailer brake performance after coupling the trailer;
 - install a suitable device such as screened gladhands, an inline air filter or a trailer air dryer to prevent fibrous contaminants from affecting the trailer air system.
- Inspect the condition and operation of the trailer's air filters, screens and air dryers in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance guidelines.

Please contact your Bendix account manager or call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) for further information.

