

CVSA Event Brings Brake Safety to Forefront

ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION TO REDUCE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE BRAKE VIOLATIONS

By Steve Keppler, CVSA, Director, Policy & Programs

In September, CVSA launched its annual Brake Safety Week, a comprehensive program to promote commercial vehicle brake safety across North America. Running through September 27, CVSA-certified inspectors will be conducting a variety of enforcement and educational activities emphasizing the importance of proper commercial vehicle brake inspection, maintenance and operation. CVSA initiat-

ed Brake Safety Week in 2005 as part of its Operation Air Brake Campaign.

“By far, brakes make up the largest percentage of Out-of-Service Violations (OOSV) cited during the approximately three million roadside inspections conducted annually throughout North America,” said CVSA’s Executive Director Stephen F. Campbell. “More attention must be paid to this problem,

and Brake Safety Week focuses on both enforcement and education activities designed to enhance the safe operation of commercial vehicles.”

Drivers will receive educational and other helpful information, such as the CVSA brochure “*Have You Checked Your Brakes Today?*,” as well as CVSA’s “Spot Check” brake adjustment indicators that drivers can install to help measure if their brakes are in proper adjustment. In addition, drivers can tune into a podcast that has experts answering driver’s brake safety questions. To listen online or download the podcast, visit www.cvsa.org, scroll down to ‘Publications and Podcasts’ and click on *In the Safety Lane with CVSA*.

Commercial vehicle brake systems, vital to these vehicles’ safe operation, are complicated and contain many parts, all of which need constant inspection and attention to ensure proper operation and performance. There is much evidence that points to brakes continuing to be a significant safety concern.

Results from a number of National Transportation Safety Board investigations into high-profile commercial vehicle crashes have revealed problems associated with brake operation, inspection and/or maintenance.

Results from the recent Large Truck Crash Causation Study, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation, indicated that brake problems were present at the time of the crash in nearly one-third of all cases. Brakes comprised the largest percentage, about 52.5 percent, of OOSVs cited in roadside inspections conducted during Roadcheck 2008. Nearly nine percent of all brakes equipped with manual slack adjusters and four percent of all brakes equipped with automatic slack adjusters are placed out of service.



CVSA'S 2008 TRADE SHOW APPEARANCES

ANPACT EXPOTRANSPORTE 2008

November 12-14

Guadalajara, MX

www.expotransporteanpact.com.mx

IANA - INTERMODAL EXPO 2008

November 15-18

Fort Lauderdale, FL

www.intermodal.org