



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENDIX SUPPORTS SENATE'S EFFORTS TO CURB COUNTERFEITING

S. 522 Aimed to Fight the Flood of Counterfeit Parts into United States

ELYRIA, Ohio – August 14, 2007 – Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, a North American leader in commercial vehicle safety and braking system technologies, strongly supports S. 522, a bill to improve the management, coordination, and effectiveness of domestic and international intellectual property rights enforcement.

Co-sponsored by Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Indiana, and Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, S. 522 will not only allocate more resources in the fight against counterfeiting, but will mandate federal agencies report to Congress on the progress of these efforts.

Counterfeiting is estimated to cost U.S. companies more than \$250 billion in lost revenue each year and often can flood markets with inferior products, leading to a threat to public safety.

"We applaud Sen. Bayh and Sen. Voinovich for taking this important step in protecting intellectual property," said Andy Cifranic, brand manager, Bendix.

"In the commercial vehicle industry, particularly within the braking system, the impact to affected manufacturers is far more than lost revenue ... it's about safety. The nature of our business involves efficiently stopping 80,000-pound vehicles, so any compromise to the integrity of vehicle braking systems due to poorly manufactured knockoff components has an impact on our brand, but more importantly, it can also have very serious consequences for our customers and highway safety in general."

Bendix, a transportation industry leader in combating the import of counterfeit parts, has built on the momentum of its multi-year awareness campaign by: expanding its cooperation with policymakers to combat the influx of knockoffs; increasing its

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enforcement efforts against trademark, patent, and intellectual property infringement; and expanding the capture and testing of counterfeit parts to educate the transportation industry on the hazards of inferior components.

In 2006 Bendix was one of seven organizations who participated in a supply chain study by the Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, the company was interviewed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) for its investigation into the role of federal agencies in the war against the import of knockoff products. The GAO report, initiated by Sen. Voinovich, is expected to be released later this year.

Bendix has also worked with the federal government on expanding the number of its genuine products that are protected under Federal Trademark Registration. Industry icons such as the Bendix® AD-9® air dryer, Bendix® AD-IP® air dryer, and Bendix® MV-3® dash valve are the most recent additions to the products which have been granted federal trademark protection. This safeguard allows Bendix to pursue action, legal and otherwise, against counterfeiters who claim to sell genuine Bendix products.

Bendix has accelerated its ongoing field capture and testing program for knock-off and counterfeit products, including key brake system valves and air treatment components. According to recent results, these knockoff products often experience faster wear, degraded performance, and complete failure due to inferior materials, engineering and manufacturing processes. These deficiencies can, and do, lead to significantly degraded brake system performance; uneven brake wear and component corrosion; accelerated component wear and leakage; brake failure; and other highly serious performance issues. The result is loss of fleet revenue due to increased vehicle downtime, increased maintenance costs, and increased risk on the highway.

"Product safety and quality is a core belief within our organization," Cifranic said. "Brakes are not the place to cut corners. When purchasing replacement parts, if the price is too good to be true, it probably is. With knockoffs populating the shelves in retail locations across North America, every week we learn of yet another situation where a disappointed consumer thought they were buying 'the real McCoy' but they walked away with just the opposite."

Cifranic states that knockoff and counterfeit parts often mislead consumers with nearly identical packaging, part names, and part numbers.

"Always ensure that you are dealing with an authorized Bendix outlet and always specify genuine Bendix replacement parts."

A charter member of the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) Brand Protection Council, Bendix and its anti-counterfeiting program has garnered national attention within and outside of the trucking industry.

Company officials have recently shared their best practices at a Senate subcommittee hearing on the topic, as well as on previous panels at national anti-counterfeiting conferences alongside consumer brands such as Louis Vuitton[®], Oakley[®], New Balance[®] and the National Basketball Association (NBA[®]). Also planned for 2007 are four additional appearances by a Bendix representative at intellectual property discussions hosted by the International Quality and Productivity Center; the Commercial Vehicle Solutions Network; and the Canadian Transportation Equipment Association, as well as an appearance at the Product Authentication and Brand Security Conference.

Bendix CEO Joe McAleese has also appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" during a segment on dangerous and defective counterfeit parts.

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, a member of the Knorr-Bremse Group, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix[®] brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 2,000 people, we are driven to deliver solutions for improved vehicle performance, safety and overall operating cost. Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems is headquartered in Elyria, Ohio, with manufacturing plants in Acuña, Mexico, Frankfort, Ky., and Huntington, Ind. For more information, call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit www.bendix.com.

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