



The Bendix[®] SR-7[™] Valve Recalls – June 2007 – Understanding The Issue

What is the issue?

Bendix has determined that two defects exist relating to motor vehicle safety. You may be impacted by one, or both, of the following:

- 1) The first defect involves the brass 90° single check valve produced by Parker Hannifin (the “Parker SCV”) which connects to the supply port of some Bendix[®] SR-7[™] spring brake modulating valves. After prolonged use of the Parker SCV, the valve body retainer may become excessively worn and eventually break apart. Bendix estimates that the wear-through breakage can occur after a year or more of service. Parker SCVs manufactured between July 2002 and July 2007 are affected.
- 2) The second defect includes the internal rubber check valves inside the Bendix[®] SR-7[™] spring brake modulating valves manufactured from November 4, 2005 through April 17, 2007. A component supplier made unauthorized changes to its manufacturing process, which may cause intermittent improper seating in the check valve.

What type of vehicles are affected?

Any commercial vehicle equipped with a Bendix[®] SR-7[™] spring brake modulating valve manufactured during the timeframe covered by the recall or equipped with a Bendix SR-7 valve with a Parker SCV which connected to its supply port.

Since there are two recalls taking place simultaneously, what are the parts populations involved?

The parts populations include some or all of the following, depending on which products you may have installed on your vehicles.

- **Population A:** All Bendix[®] SR-7[™] valves, or SR-7 valve modules that include a Parker 90 degree single-check valve from the original start of production (July 2002), through 11/4/05. This population is only impacted by the Parker Check Valve recall campaign;
- **Population B:** All Bendix[®] SR-7[™] valves/modules manufactured between 11/4/05 and 4/17/07 (inclusive). This group is impacted by both the Parker Check Valve and the Bendix[®] SR-7[™] valve recall efforts; and
- **Population C:** All Bendix[®] SR-7[™] valves that include a Parker 90 degree single-check valve from 4/18/07 through 5/31/07 (inclusive). This population is only impacted by the Parker Check Valve recall campaign. We will update the information in population C in July 2007.

What are the problems that caused the two recalls?

Each defect was created by different circumstances but result in the same potential braking problems.

- First, regarding the Parker SCV: After prolonged use of the Parker SCV, the valve body retainer may become excessively worn and eventually break apart. Once this occurs, the fragments from the single check valve can contaminate or become lodged in internal components of the SR-7 valve downstream.

- Second, concerning the internal rubber check valve inside the Bendix SR-7: A component supplier made unauthorized changes to its manufacturing process, which creates the potential deformation of the check valve, resulting in intermittent improper seating.

What can happen because of this problem?

If the check valve does not properly seat the resulting air leakage can cause a delay in the application of the spring brakes to park the vehicle after the operator pulls the dash valve button. The delayed parking brake application can occur without warning, leading to unintended vehicle rollaway. Additionally, the Parker SCV defect may result in failure of the parking brakes to release, causing dragging brakes on the vehicle.

Normal service braking *is not affected* by this condition. There have been no reports of any injuries related to this issue.

Who/What caused the defect?

In the case of the single check valve produced by Parker Hannifin, the cause of the defects is due to a design issue that allows the spring to rotate on its seat, resulting in damage to the seat and potential valve failure. In the case of the internal check valve inside the Bendix SR-7 valve, the component sub-supplier made unauthorized and undisclosed changes to its manufacturing process, resulting in the defect in valve operation. This manufacturing process has since been modified to eliminate the defect and to prevent recurrence of this issue.

How is this different from the Bendix SR-7 valve recall announced in 2006? Is there any relation between the two? Can I get one solution to solve both issues?

Although the two recalls relate to the same physical area of the SR-7 valve -- and are the result of supplier errors -- these recalls are independent of each other. The 2006 recall was to provide a remedy for an incorrect valve body cavity in the SR-7 valve due to a casting error. The 2007 issue deals with 1) the rubber check valve itself located inside of that cavity; and 2) the external Parker SCV attached to the supply port of the SR-7 valve.

Are just tractor trailer vehicles impacted?

No. Any vehicle, including trucks and buses with an affected Bendix® SR-7™ spring brake modulating valve or Parker SCV in the supply port on a Bendix SR-7 valve may be impacted by this problem.

How can I minimize the risk of an accident until I can get my vehicle repaired?

A best practice measure is to always chock the vehicle wheels when parking the vehicle to eliminate all potential of roll away.

Are service brakes affected?

No, service braking is not affected by either of the recall issues announced.

Have there been any incidents resulting in injury reported as a result of these defects?

There have been no reports of any injuries related to these issues.

Is emergency stopping distance affected, in case of a primary air system failure?

Yes. If the emergency stop is made prior to the dash valve button popping due to low air pressure, the SR-7 valve will function normally and spring brake modulation will occur. However, once the vehicle comes to a stop, and the dash button is pulled, there is a risk of delayed application of parking brakes.

My vehicle has a Bendix SR-7 valve (with the Parker SCV) which is inside the identified timeframes for the recall but it hasn't exhibited the identified issue. Is it OK?

Following the announcement of our no-cost remedy, the vehicle should be scheduled for service at your earliest convenience. Drivers should be advised to exercise the best practice measure of always chocking the vehicle wheels when parking the vehicle to eliminate all potential of roll away.

My vehicle has a Bendix SR-7 valve which is inside the identified timeframes for the internal check valve recall. I have not experienced a problem so should I assume the valve is OK and postpone replacement?

Following the announcement of our no-cost remedy, the vehicle should be scheduled for service at your earliest convenience. Drivers should be advised to exercise the best practice measure of always chocking the vehicle wheels when parking the vehicle to eliminate all potential of roll away.

Is the vehicle safe to drive?

Normal driving and normal service braking are unaffected. The vehicle, however, may fail to park and can roll away as a result of the affected valve. Drivers should be advised to exercise the best practice measure of always chocking the vehicle wheels when parking the vehicle to eliminate all potential of roll away.

What should an operator do if the vehicle's parking brakes do not apply when the dash button is pulled?

Because the announced defects do create an intermittent condition, attempt to release and apply the parking brake again. Drivers should be advised to exercise the best practice measure of always chocking the vehicle wheels when parking the vehicle to eliminate all potential of roll away.

If the Bendix SR-7 valve falls into one of the identified recall targets but I have not experienced any problems, should I change it anyway?

Yes. The vehicle should still be serviced at your earliest convenience. The check valve leakage may occur at random, while the potential problem resulting from the Parker SCV may materialize after a year or more of service. In either situation, the potentially affected valve component should be replaced.

If I have not had any issues, can I assume all my vehicles are OK?

It would not be prudent to make that assumption. We recommend you make an appointment to have the remedy kit installed at your earliest convenience.

For additional details regarding the SR-7 Valve Recall, email us at sr7campaign@bendix.com or call the Recall Assistance Center, toll-free, at 1-877-461-2732. Representatives are available to assist you Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET.