FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BENDIX ADDRESSES “PRESSURE POINTS” TO MARK NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK

Proper Tire Inflation Remains a Core Factor in Safe Vehicle Operation and Fleet Efficiency

ELYRIA, Ohio – May 26, 2016 – Safe trucks make for safer roadways – and safe tires make for safer trucks. In support of National Tire Safety Week (May 29-June 4), Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC offers four key “Pressure Points” as reminders of the importance of proper tire inflation.

The Rubber Manufacturers Association sponsors National Tire Safety Week as part of its year-round efforts to raise awareness of tire care and maintenance issues.

The experts at Bendix, the North American leader in the development and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking system technologies for commercial vehicles, recommend keeping the following four “Pressure Points” in mind when it comes to tire inflation.

Safety

Underinflated tires undergo increased stress and experience higher temperatures, increasing the risk of failure. According to industry research, 90 percent of tire blowouts can be attributed to underinflation, and nearly half of all emergency service road calls are tire-related.

Correctly inflated tires also help to ensure the best performance of today’s most advanced commercial vehicle safety systems: Reduced Stopping Distance (RSD)-compliant brakes, full-stability, and collision mitigation systems are all optimized when the vehicle they’re protecting is running on properly maintained tires.

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“Whether you’re talking about high-performance drum brakes, air disc brakes, or the leading-edge technologies like Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™, any component that can play a role in the vehicle’s stopping ability can find its performance hindered when tires aren’t kept at the proper pressure and in good working condition,” said Jon Intagliata, Bendix’s product manager for Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS). “That’s why it’s so important to catch low-pressure situations quickly and remedy them the same day they are discovered.”

Reflecting the critical nature of tire pressure to safe operation, underinflated tires are also a violation in today’s Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) inspection environment, which can impact a fleet’s CSA scoring.

**Tire Temperature**

During normal vehicle operation, tire temperature increases – which causes tire pressure to rise as well. The SmarTire® Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) by Bendix CVS for tractors and SmarTire® Trailer-Link™ TPMS by Bendix CVS for trailer systems both use wheel-mounted sensors to continuously monitor temperature, as well as pressure inside each tire. These sensors enable the system to provide a deviation value that shows the amount of overinflation or underinflation from the tire’s cold inflation pressure (CIP), automatically taking into account any increase in pressure due to temperature, and adjusting driver alerts accordingly. As a result, these systems can not only address changing situations that can affect pressure – such as whether a truck has been parked for some time or has traveled hundreds of miles – but also provide earlier warnings of potential tire problems.

**Cost Savings**

Because fuel and tires are typically among fleets’ largest expenses, maintaining the right tire pressure every day over miles and miles pays dividends in both fuel savings and tread life. Underinflation by as little as 10 percent can result in a 1.5 percent drop in fuel economy, according to research by the American Trucking Associations’ Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC), and underinflation by 20 percent results in a 30 percent reduction in tire life.

A TPMS can also address tire-related downtime costs: The real-time status information these systems provide to drivers or maintenance technicians both warns of tire problems before they pose a safety hazard, and also eliminates the need for manual pressure checks. Tire inspections and maintenance are made more efficient since terminal operators can tell in advance which tires may need pressure adjustment.
Big-Picture Planning

With the right equipment and organizational planning, fleets can sharpen their maintenance team’s scheduling and shape a fleet-wide tire strategy.

SafetyDirect® from Bendix CVS – a web portal that allows fleet owners to analyze real-time, wirelessly transmitted safety information – connects to systems like SmarTire® and provides tire pressures, temperatures, and alerts to the back office. This enables fleet maintenance teams to plan specific vehicle service in advance, while fleet managers can examine and consider factors such as tire replacement frequency, tire repair downtime, and occurrences of roadside breakdowns due to tire failure.

“There’s really no such thing as taking too much care when it comes to a truck’s tires,” Intagliata said. “So many aspects of safe vehicle operation – and, by extension, highway safety – depend on their maintenance and inspection. That’s why we’ll continue to work on developing and improving ways to keep fleets and drivers running on safe, properly inflated tires in all situations and conditions.”

Bendix’s SmarTire and SafetyDirect are part of the company’s full suite of wheel-end braking and safety technologies delivering on areas critical to fleets’ success: safety, vehicle performance and efficiency, and post-sales support. Bendix aims to improve highway safety for everyone by strengthening return on investment in today’s advanced equipment and helping fleets and drivers lower their total cost of vehicle ownership.

The SmarTire Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) by Bendix CVS is unable to warn of an instantaneous tire blowout due to a road hazard or other immediate physical breaching of the wheel or tire. Operators must follow OEM and tire manufacturer guidelines for tire fitment, replacement, inspection, and repair of wheels and tires.

For more information about Bendix safety systems and technologies, visit www.safertrucks.com, www.bendix.com, or call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725).

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of the Knorr-Bremse Group, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and 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 3,000 people, Bendix is driven to deliver solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Bendix is headquartered in Elyria, Ohio, with manufacturing plants in Bowling Green, Kentucky;
Huntington, Indiana; North Aurora, Illinois; and Acuña, Mexico. For more information, call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit www.bendix.com. To learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit www.bendix.com/careers. Follow Bendix on Twitter at http://twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at www.brake-school.com.

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