BENDIX SUPPORTS OPERATION SAFE DRIVER BY ASSISTING COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVERS ON AND OFF THE ROAD

Driver Assistance Technology and Comprehensive Training Help to Mitigate Crashes

ELYRIA, Ohio – Oct. 14, 2016 – Out on the highway, safety starts with drivers, but at Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC, safe driving starts with technology and training designed to help prepare those drivers for many situations they may encounter on the road. Bendix promotes safe driving practices by delivering driver assistance solutions, providing robust support and training for drivers and technicians, and supporting safe driving campaigns like the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance’s (CVSA) Operation Safe Driver program.

The CVSA initiative, which includes the annual Operation Safe Driver Week taking place Oct. 16-22, aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crashes involving large trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles due to unsafe driver behaviors. During Operation Safe Driver Week, CVSA partners with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to promote traffic law and safety belt enforcement, roadside inspections, regulatory compliance, and commercial driver education – while also striving to educate all drivers on operating safely around commercial vehicles.

“Programs like Operation Safe Driver Week are critical to raising awareness about safe driving practices – and encouraging drivers to pay more attention to their surroundings and how their actions impact others on the road,” said Fred Andersky, Bendix director of government and industry affairs. “That’s why we proudly support CVSA’s efforts, and it’s why every week is safe driving week at Bendix. We stand for and with commercial vehicle drivers, who bring skill and dedication to a challenging job. Our mission is to deliver technology solutions that assist the
men and women behind the wheel, and also to have their backs through training, education, and technical support.”

Programs targeting unsafe driver behavior are particularly timely, as statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicate that traffic deaths rose 7.2 percent in 2015, the biggest increase in 50 years, and grew another 10.4 percent in the first six months of 2016. According to the FMCSA’s “Large Truck Crash Causation Study,” the behavior of drivers – other than those behind the wheel of a commercial vehicle – is most often the critical reason for more than 88 percent of large truck crashes and 93 percent of passenger-vehicle crashes.

**Technologies for the Road**

Advanced safety technologies from Bendix are engineered to assist drivers in this demanding environment. They include the Bendix® ESP® Electronic Stability Program full-stability system, which helps to address both roll and directional instability through sensors that recognize and mitigate conditions that could lead to rollover and loss-of-control.

Bendix ESP serves as a foundation for Bendix’s Wingman® systems, which actively alert drivers and intervene when needed to help mitigate accidents. Bendix® Wingman® Advanced™ – A Collision Mitigation Technology combines both adaptive cruise control and collision mitigation to help drivers mitigate or reduce the intensity of potential rear-end collision situations. Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™ adds stationary vehicle braking, Bendix’s exclusive overspeed alert and action, and other capabilities to create a comprehensive driver assistance system.

The company also delivers wheel-end safety solutions that meet and exceed reduced stopping distance (RSD) requirements for shorter stops. These technologies include Bendix’s Extended Service drum brake (Bendix® ES™ brakes), the popular Bendix® ADB22X™ air disc brake, plus the new Bendix® ADB22X™-LT air disc brake for trailers.

Bendix stresses that its technologies are designed to complement safe driving practices and that responsibility for the safe operation of the vehicle remains with the driver at all times.

“There is a tendency today – amid the discussion and debate about autonomous driving – to view driver-assistance systems as driver-replacement systems, and they are not,” Andersky said. “Our solutions are designed to assist the driver through alerts and interventions – not as an autopilot. That’s why we call our collision mitigation technology Bendix Wingman. It’s just that – an assistant that helps people drive safer. It’s the driver who is always responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle.”
Training and Preparation

As the industry continues to adopt advanced safety technologies, Bendix stresses the importance of ongoing fleet and owner-operator training to maximize highway safety.

Bendix is meeting the growing need for knowledge and training by expanding and strengthening its education programs. It’s doing this through a variety of in-person and online resources. Hands-on training options include the Bendix® Brake Training School; on-site demonstrations and detailed system explanations; on-site ride-and-drive training with customer vehicles; and on-site technician training covering troubleshooting and system maintenance.

Bendix also regularly hosts off-site track demonstrations.

The three-day Bendix Brake Training School, one of the industry’s longest-running training programs, has educated more than 250,000 students since its inception. The rigorous training program provides a comprehensive understanding of the full range of foundation and air brake system components, as well as in-depth coverage of advanced safety systems.

For online training, the Bendix On-Line Brake School (www.brake-school.com) serves more than 40,000 registered users from more than two dozen countries. The site’s free curriculum covers all aspects of electronics and air brake maintenance and has become an essential part of training at many North American fleets.

In addition, Bendix produces a variety of video content to demonstrate the operation of its technology in action. For example, videos such as “Driving with Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™” and “Fusion System Alerts – A View from the Driver’s Seat” – both new on the Bendix YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/bendixvideos) – show viewers the driver’s perspective from inside the cab of a truck equipped with Wingman Fusion.

By delivering on areas critical to fleets’ success – safety, vehicle performance, and efficiency – and providing unparalleled post-sales support, Bendix helps fleets and drivers strengthen return on investment in equipment and technology.

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.

About Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC
Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC combines and expands the complementary wheel-end foundation brake technologies of two global leaders – Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC and Dana Commercial Vehicle Products, LLC. The joint venture, formed in July 2004, is a single, complete source for OEM brake system design, manufacturing, hardware, and support for all foundation brake components and actuation systems, as well as all-makes coverage of nearly 50,000 medium- and heavy-duty aftermarket parts. Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake LLC is headquartered in Elyria, Ohio, with engineering operations in both Elyria and Kalamazoo, Michigan, and a manufacturing facility in Bowling Green, Kentucky. For more information, call 1-866-610-9709 or visit www.foundationbrakes.com. To learn about career opportunities at Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake, visit www.bendix.com/careers. Follow BSFB 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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