



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BENDIX WORKS TOWARD THE GOALS OF
OPERATION SAFE DRIVER WEEK – AND BEYOND**

*Technology and Training Leader Supports Commercial Vehicle Drivers’
Safety On and Off the Roads*

ELYRIA, Ohio – July 12, 2021 – Commercial and passenger vehicles are more advanced than ever – but there’s still nothing more important to safer roadways than the person behind the wheel. From developing technologies that equip North America’s drivers with the best tools to providing training and technical insight, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC supports the goals of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance’s (CVSA) Operation Safe Driver Week, taking place July 11-17.

Operation Safe Driver Week is a safe-driving awareness and outreach initiative aimed at improving the driving behaviors of passenger vehicle drivers and commercial motor vehicle drivers. CVSA works with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) during the week to promote traffic law and safety belt enforcement, operating safely around commercial vehicles, roadside inspections, regulatory compliance, and commercial driver education.

“As North America recovers from the pandemic, increasing travel and transportation mean busier roads for everyone – which makes CVSA’s mission that much more vital,” said Fred Andersky, Bendix director of Government and Industry Affairs. “At Bendix, we’re proud to work closely with partners across the commercial vehicle industry to raise awareness and provide components and systems that reinforce safe driving practices and help improve the safety of the men and women who keep America moving.”

Bendix is the North American leader in the development and manufacture of active safety, air management, and braking solutions for commercial vehicles.

Helping Drivers Prepare

According to the FMCSA's 2020 Pocket Guide to Large Truck and Bus Statistics, nearly a half million crashes (499,415) involving large trucks occurred in 2018. That averages out to 57 crashes per hour – almost one every minute.

Andersky noted, "What the FMCSA information tells us is that Class 8 tractor-trailers are likely involved in a sizeable percentage of heavy truck crashes that happen out on the road. That's why we see technologies such as electronic stability control, collision mitigation, and others being mandated or made on many of today's OEM tractor models. In turn, that means it's increasingly important to prepare and educate drivers on how these systems work and what support they provide out on the road."

Bendix's driver-focused efforts include on-site demonstrations and ride-and-drive training to familiarize drivers with new technologies, and videos exploring its systems and explaining the in-cab experience at Bendix's YouTube channel (youtube.com/user/bendixvideos). The company's "Truck Talk with Bendix" podcast also includes the "Drivers Insight Series" collection of episodes to help ensure safety systems are used correctly and to their maximum benefit.

Brakes Make a Difference

To help drivers safely navigate a range of ever-changing road and traffic situations, Bendix engineers wheel-end technologies such as the industry-leading Bendix® ADB22X® air disc brake and the Bendix® ADB22X®-LT trailer air disc brake, along with the Bendix® ES™ (Extended Service) family of light and durable foundation drum brakes, paired with the Bendix® Versajust® slack adjuster and Bendix® EnduraSure™ spring brakes.

Bendix has produced more than 4 million ADB22X units since launching the brake in 2005, reflecting escalating demand for air disc brakes in the commercial vehicle industry. Worldwide, Bendix and its parent company, Knorr-Bremse, are the clear global leader in air disc brake production at more than 45 million and counting.

"The right brakes and friction, supported by proper inspection and upkeep, are instrumental in making sure vehicles and higher-level advanced safety systems will perform at their best in any situation," said Mark Holley, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Wheel-End. "When it's time to replace brake pads or shoes, not all aftermarket replacements will perform to the reduced stopping distance (RSD) regulatory standard, even if

they're marketed as 'acceptable.' We recommend replacing original equipment manufacturer (OEM) friction like-for-like to maintain performance and compliance.”

The Leading Edge

Bendix's flagship collision mitigation system, Bendix® Wingman® Fusion™, comes standard on several major North American on-highway makes and models, and is optional on many others – including vocational, bus, and motorcoach applications. Combining camera, radar, and a vehicle's brake system, Fusion is designed to help drivers mitigate rear-end collisions. It also delivers Active Cruise with Braking, lane departure warnings, and Overspeed Alert and Action, among other valuable system features. Because it is built on the foundational technology of Bendix® ESP® Electronic Stability Program full-stability system, Fusion also helps mitigate rollover and loss-of-control situations.

“With this year's Operation Safe Driver Week focus on speeding, it's also worth pointing out that Fusion's forward-facing camera enables the system to read roadside speed limit signs and provide Overspeed Alert and Action,” said TJ Thomas, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Controls. “Like all Bendix technologies, these aren't driver replacement systems – they're driver assistance systems that are engineered to help keep even a good driver from having a bad day. Responsibility for the safe operation of the vehicle remains with the driver at all times.”

Bendix safety technologies complement safe driving practices, he stressed. No commercial vehicle safety technology replaces a skilled, alert driver exercising safe driving techniques and proactive, comprehensive driver training.

Fleet Support

Bendix also provides technologies and resources that enhance fleet safety programs and support drivers from the back office and the maintenance bay.

The online platform SafetyDirect® by Bendix CVS provides fleet operators with comprehensive feedback on their fleet and drivers, including videos of triggered severe events. SafetyDirect gives fleets key insights into common driving behaviors and trends across their operation, enabling the development of specific, customized driver support and training programs. The SafetyDirect system's new SDP5™ Full processor has expanded the system's capabilities to power digital video recording, enable a driver-facing camera option, and better preserve data in the event of a power loss through the addition of a battery backup.

Maximizing highway safety is also dependent upon regular vehicle maintenance performed by properly trained technicians.

“With a legacy of over 90 years, education, awareness, and regular maintenance has always been a key part of commercial vehicle safety,” Andersky said. “For decades, we’ve offered regular in-depth training programs to keep maintenance professionals up-to-date on the latest systems, from the traveling air-brake boards in the back of station wagons to our online education programs.”

The long-running Bendix® Brake Training School provides in-person, hands-on training in locations across the United States, and Bendix also delivers on-site maintenance demonstrations, detailed system explorations, and training covering troubleshooting and system maintenance. The free Bendix On-Line Brake School at brake-school.com serves as a 24/7/365 training portal with dozens of maintenance courses and tests for sharpening technical knowledge and skills. Nearly 90 training courses and custom education plans are available for fleets and industry organizations, and more than 100,000 registered users have taken part. Students can access the curriculum covering the full spectrum of braking and active vehicle safety system product topics, all developed by the team at Bendix.

The “Truck Talk with Bendix” podcast is available via Google Play, Apple Podcasts®, and Stitcher. It’s also found on Bendix’s Knowledge Dock® (knowledge-dock.com), which hosts continuously updated videos, white papers, and blog posts addressing maintenance and other critical topics.

Through its ever-growing portfolio of technologies that deliver safety, vehicle performance, and efficiency, all backed by unparalleled post-sales support, Bendix supports safer drivers across North America. By strengthening fleets’ and owner-operators’ return on investment in advanced equipment and safer trucks, Bendix lowers total cost of ownership and helps make the roads safer for all who share them.

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, 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 4,100 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit bendix.com. Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at knowledge-dock.com. Follow Bendix on Twitter at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at brake-school.com. And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit bendix.com/careers.