

Technical Bulletin

Bulletin No: TCH-005-016

Effective Date: 1-26-2017

Cancels: N/A

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Subject: **Bendix® Automatic Slack Adjuster Replacement**

There are many choices available today to truck owners when replacing a worn out or damaged automatic slack adjuster on their truck or trailer. Along with all these options, there is also a lot of misinformation within the industry regarding replacement guidelines.

Bendix supports the recommendations of TMC RP 609, which states that all slack adjusters on a vehicle should be from the same manufacturer. We further believe they should also be identical models as different makes of slack adjusters operate and perform differently. This variability could result in a variety of performance issues such as uneven braking, different brake reaction times, uneven wear, brake steering, etc.

Typically, a good option is like-for-like replacement with the same brand and model of automatic slack adjuster as the one removed. There are cases, however, where it may make sense to upgrade a vehicle to a higher-performing slack adjuster if the intent is to keep the vehicle in operation for years to come.

A larger up front charge will be incurred as it could mean replacing 2, 4, or 6 slack adjusters versus the one that is faulty. It should be noted that if the slacks adjusters are out of the warranty period and one fails, it is likely others may follow soon and changing them all could save time and money in the long run. Plus, upgrading to a higher performing slack, such as the Bendix® Versajust® LS, can provide additional savings in friction and drum life as well as reduced maintenance.

It is recommended that you review TMC RP 609—as well as the service data sheets for the particular automatic slack adjuster—to understand the recommended maintenance practices relating to slack adjusters prior to making any replacement decisions.

For additional support contact your Bendix Account Representative or the Bendix Tech Team at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725).

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