

## Vehicle maintained:

# Brakes

Use this guide to help lead a discussion with employees to raise awareness about the importance of vehicle maintenance, specifically related to brakes. Empower drivers to recognize possible issues and minimize their risk on the road—making it safer for everyone. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

Supervisors should be vigilant in observing whether drivers do proper brake checks on vehicles prior to driving for the day. Training drivers on expectations is the first step, then follow-up with direct observation of those checks is extremely important as brakes are very key to preventing accidents.

### Proper brake inspections should include:

#### 1 Checking the brake pad condition:

- Check brake pads for sufficient thickness:
  - Drum brakes: Look for more than 1/4 inch on the shoe pads.
  - Disc brakes: Ensure at least 1/8 inch thickness.
- Inspect for cracks or missing pieces that impact braking capacity.
- Examine drums and rotors for cracks as these can cause brake failure and the vehicle should not be operated until repaired.

#### 2 Listening for audible air leaks:

- Listen for air leaks throughout the entire braking system.
- Conduct an air loss check in the cab:
  - With the power off, apply brakes.
  - Then key on and time any pressure loss over 60 seconds.
  - Further checking should be completed if 2 PSI loss on a single unit or 3 PSI loss on a combination unit.
- Verify low air pressure warning device activated by reducing air pressure in the system.

#### 3 Brake tubing examination:

- Inspect brake tubing for:
  - Broken, crimped, or cracked air lines.
  - Wear to the reinforcement ply or change to white in plastic red/blue tubing.

#### 4 Checking the brake chambers and assemblies:

- Ensure adequate attachment; no looseness or breakage.
- Check for non-manufactured holes in chambers.

#### 5 Determining brake adjustments:

- Determine if brakes in proper adjustment for the size of the brake chamber.
- Confirm by marking the push rod entry point into the chamber, applying the brakes, and measuring the travel distance against the brake chamber size requirements.
- This can be a difficult task for a driver so they should at the very least set brakes to determine that the pad is in contact with the drum/rotor.

For additional information related to driver safety, visit [MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5](https://MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5)

For further guidance, refer to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration 49 CFR Part 393 Subpart C ([ecfr.gov/current/title-49/part-393/subpart-C](https://ecfr.gov/current/title-49/part-393/subpart-C)).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at [RMSolutions@nationwide.com](mailto:RMSolutions@nationwide.com) or 1-800-260-1356.

# Toolbox Talk

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Vehicle maintained: Brakes

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