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Topic: Brake Adjustment/FMCSA

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion over both the need to adjust brakes and what charges apply to adjusting brakes as part of a FMCSA inspection. It is the purpose of this document to both clarify when brakes need to be adjusted and what the correct charge is for adjusting brakes in conjunction with an FMCSA inspection.

There are two different scenarios regarding brake adjustment in conjunction with the FMCSA inspection which scenario applies is determined by the type of slack adjuster with which the unit is equipped.

Manual Slack Adjusters

If a chassis is equipped with manual slack adjusters the brakes must be adjusted every time the unit receives an FMCSA inspection. Regardless of what the measurement of the brake stroke is if the unit is equipped with manual slack adjusters the brake should be readjusted at FMCSA to a stroke of no more than 1.5 inches. Repair vendors will be allowed a total .25mhr for adjusting all 4 manual slack adjusters in conjunction with an FMCSA inspection.

Automatic Slack Adjusters

As the name would suggest, Automatic slack adjusters should not require adjustment at the time of FMCSA inspection provided the slack adjuster is working properly. For this reason if the brake stroke is measured at 2.0 inch or less the brakes should not be adjusted in conjunction with an FMCSA inspection. If the brakes measure more than 2.0 inch, the slack adjusters, S cams, and the entire brake system must be evaluated to determine why the brakes are out of adjustment. Once the cause has been determined corrective action as necessary must be performed and billed to CCM using the CCM tariff. If no other corrective action is required the repair vendors may charge .5MHR to both diagnose and readjust all 4 automatic slack adjusters on a unit when performed in conjunction with an FMCSA inspection.

It is our belief that by keeping these two scenarios separate in everyone's mind we can eliminate the present confusion on when to adjust brakes and what to charge when they do.

Your cooperation in disseminating this information to all the repair vendors in your respective pools ASAP would be greatly appreciated.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to the CCM Chassis Technical Services Manager.