



## **SERVICE BULLETIN NO. SB-08-066**

Issue Date: 4/08/2004

### **SUBJECT: Protect Your Trailer Air System from Contamination**

Industry suppliers of air valves, Haldex and Bendix, recommend the use of screen filters to help reduce the amount of contaminants entering the trailer air brake system. Gladhand screen filters will prevent large pieces of contaminants such as stones, pebbles, and nesting insects from entering the antilock braking system.

Utility Trailer Manufacturing Company installs gladhands with screen filters as a standard. We recommend that end users and operators of ABS-equipped trailers follow the Bendix and Haldex recommendations listed in the following technical/service bulletins.

Bendix Technical Bulletin No. TCH-008-036  
Hadex Service Bulletin No. L20524

Any questions regarding the Bendix technical bulletin can be directed to Bendix's Technical Service Hotline at 800-247-2725.

Any questions regarding the Haldex service bulletin can be directed to Haldex's Technical Service & Engineering Support Line at 800-643-2374 (Press 2).

Any questions regarding this service bulletin should be directed to Utility's Field Service Department at 800-423-6591.

**Field Service Department**  
**UTILITY TRAILER MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

# *Technical Bulletin*

Bulletin No: TCH-008-036

Effective Date: 8/30/02

Cancels: NA

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## **Subject: Protect Your Trailer Air System from Fibrous Contamination**

Nesting insects can introduce fibrous contaminants into a trailer's air system through open, unprotected glad hands while the trailer is uncoupled and parked. Many insects build their nests with fibrous materials such as wood shavings, airborne plant seeds and even old filters from cigarette butts. Ingestion of these contaminants into the trailer's air system can affect the flow of air. This is particularly true on trailers equipped with anti-lock brake systems (ABS). The orifices in ABS valves can become clogged with fibrous contaminants that can impede the control line air signal to the modulator/relay valve. This can result in reduced trailer braking performance. Over time, any unprotected trailer ABS modulator valve can be susceptible to this type of blockage and diminished performance.

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC recommends that all trailer manufacturers and end users of trailers take appropriate steps to protect the trailer air system from fibrous contamination due to nesting insects by equipping their trailers with appropriate protections to screen out fibrous contaminants.

Bendix recommends that end users and operators of ABS-equipped trailers include the following as part of their routine operating and maintenance practices:

- Ensure the gladhand covers are properly operating and adequately cover the air passage when uncoupling the trailer.
- Gladhand screens should be visually inspected each time the gladhands are coupled.
- If the screens or covers are not functioning properly or are missing:
  - ensure fibrous contaminants have not entered the air system;
  - pay particular attention during pre-trip inspection to verifying proper trailer brake performance after coupling the trailer;
  - install a suitable device such as screened gladhands, an inline air filter or a trailer air dryer to prevent fibrous contaminants from affecting the trailer air system.
- Inspect the condition and operation of the trailer's air filters, screens and air dryers in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance guidelines.

Please contact your Bendix account manager or call 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) for further information.





## Protect-O Glad Hand Seals™ and Filters Recommended in All Vocational Trailer Applications




Trailer applications that include any off-highway usage and/or frequent trailer drops will benefit from the use of closed glad hand seals and filters, such as Haldex's Protect-O Seals and Filters. These two economical glad hand options will prevent premature failure of the costly Anti-Lock Modulator Valves by preventing contamination from entering the air system.

During the tear-down of returned valves, Haldex has discovered an increasing incidence of small gravel particles or dry bulk products. Ingression of foreign material into the air system will cause valve failure and generally is not considered a failure covered by warranty programs.

Haldex recommends the use of protected glad hands on all new dump, dry bulk, refuse or other vocational trailers when produced. These would be the Haldex Glad Hand part numbers 11464 and 11465 or equal.

Existing vocational trailers, or those experiencing high valve failure rates, will benefit also by adding the Haldex Protect-O Seal, part number 10024, and filter, part number 10035. Suggested installation should occur during the first C inspection, or while replacing any failed trailer valve.

These low-cost air system shields can be used on all Haldex and most competitive brands of glad hands. Payback is assured as the cost of a single ABS Modulator Valve may well cover the cost to equip an entire fleet with this added protection.

	Haldex Service #	Description
	<b>11464</b> <b>11465</b>	Service Glad Hand* Emergency Glad Hand* <small>*Includes Protect-O Seal and Filter</small>
	<b>10024</b>	Protect-O Glad Hand Seal
	<b>10035</b>	Stainless Glad Hand Filter <small>*This filter will only work in Haldex Aluminum Glad Hands.</small>

See Haldex Master Catalog for expanded coverage.

**Innovative Vehicle Technology**