

MERITOR®

NEW STOPPING DISTANCE REGULATIONS "ANSWERS" FROM THE BRAKE LEADERS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) has announced new stopping distance regulations for tractors with implementation beginning August 2011.

Q. What does the new rule mean and who is responsible for ensuring that it is met?

A. All Class 8 tractors with air brakes must be capable of passing a stopping distance requirement for loaded and unloaded conditions from 60 mph. The new rule has shortened the maximum allowable distance. The vehicle builder is responsible for making sure their vehicles are compliant.

Q. Will the new rule significantly change the brake system specs?

A. No. For example, the industry-leading Meritor® Q Plus™ S-cam drum brake will continue to be available to meet customers' needs. ArvinMeritor has been working on a reduced stopping distance program for over 3 years in anticipation of the new regulations. As a result, the Q Plus product will meet the new requirements with an additional 10% margin.

Q. Will larger drum brakes be required to meet the new rule?

A. Not in all cases. ArvinMeritor will continue to offer an array of brake sizes, including 15" steer axle packages. This is particularly important for weight sensitive customers. However, transitioning to larger brakes will provide some advantages, including increased lining volume to drive longer service intervals, lower operating temperatures, reduced fade and improved performance.

Q. Will my service practices have to change?

A. No, drum brake service practices will see very little change. The service technicians and mechanics will not have to be re-trained and parts inventory practices will carry over to the new drum brakes.

Q. Can I use air disc brakes to meet the stopping distance regulations even if they are not required?

A. Yes, air disc brakes can be utilized to meet the new regulation. Meritor WABCO will have a full array of air disc brake products available.



Important Factors You Need to Know about the Stopping Distance Regulation Change

- ☐ Meritor® Q Plus™ drum brakes will meet the new requirements
- ☐ The first phase of the new regulation is effective August 1, 2011
- ☐ The new regulations affect tractors only; the use of air disc brakes is *not* mandated to meet Phase I stopping distances
- ☐ Existing vehicles are not affected

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Q. Will the new rule affect single-unit trucks, buses or trailers?

A. No, the new regulations only affect tractors. Highway crash and fatality data for heavy vehicles show that the majority of crashes involve tractors. While single-trucks, buses and trailers are not included in this rule, on-going research by NHTSA may impact future stopping distance requirements for other air-braked vehicles.

Q. Will lightweight options be available with the new brake configurations?

A. Yes, ArvinMeritor will provide lightweight brake components including stamped spiders as well as our X30™ steel shell drum.

Q. When will this new rule become effective?

A. The tractor stopping distance change is best summarized in the table below.

Implementation Date	Vehicle Configuration	Tractor GVWR (lbs)	60 MPH Unloaded Stopping Distance (Current)	60 MPH Loaded Stopping Distance (Current)	60 MPH Unloaded Stopping Distance (New)	60 MPH Loaded Stopping Distance (New)
August 1, 2011	Three axles	0 to 59,600	335 Feet	355 Feet	235 Feet	250 Feet
August 1, 2013	Three axles	59,600 to 70,000				250 Feet
	Three axles	Above 70,000				310 Feet
	Two axles	All				250 Feet
	Four or more axles	0 to 85,000				250 Feet
	Four or more axles	85,000 and above				310 Feet

Q. What is the impact to my existing vehicles?

A. The new regulations do not affect existing vehicles. Only tractors built after the implementation date of August 1, 2011 (or August 1, 2013, depending on vehicle configuration & GVWR) will be required to meet the shorter stopping distances.

Q. How will tractor-trailer balance be affected?

A. ArvinMeritor recognized the need for high performance brake solutions on new tractors to work with existing trailers. Our solutions have been developed to maintain tractor-trailer compatibility with existing trailer fleets. The tractor will incur approximately five percent more of the braking workload, while the trailer will experience a proportionate reduction in workload.

Q. What are the expected drum brake cost implications of meeting the new regulations?

A. There will be an incremental cost increase for enhanced drum brakes that meet the new regulations. In studying the implications of the new regulations, NHTSA estimates that the incremental cost for drum brakes on a typical three axle tractor would be \$211 whereas the incremental costs to convert to disc brakes at all wheel positions would be \$1475.*

*Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Air Brake Systems; Final Rule, 74 Fed. Reg. 37122 (July 27, 2009) (amending 49 C.F.R. § 571.121)

For more information, call the customer service team at 800-535-5560 or visit www.arvinmeritor.com.