

SAFETY ALERT

TRAILER BRAKE ALERT **Yard Valves**

Owners and operators need to be aware of the following safety alert in relation to trucks fitted with two brake application buttons on the dash of trucks.

These buttons are commonly found in Western Star, Mack, International and Kenworth Trucks and are similar to the pictures included in this alert.

An issue can arise when a driver activates the yard release valve on a trailer but then fails to activate the red trailer release button in the cab of the truck before moving away.

Failing to activate the red button and only activating the yellow truck release button could result in the trailer being towed with no brakes being active on the trailer.

The red button must be activated to reset the yard release valve on the trailer so air is supplied to the brake system on the trailer.

Units fitted with a PPI valve and button, which is designed to supply air to the trailer while loading, will reset when the brake release is activated and will not allow the trailer to be towed until both buttons are activated.

Please ensure all drivers of trucks with the above system are aware of the risk and if they are using the yard release button fitted to the trailer, they must ensure they reset it before moving. All drivers should check that both buttons fitted to the dash are charged or activated before moving off when towing a trailer.

Truck manufacturers may have solutions that can be retrofitted to avoid this from occurring which LTSC suggests you discuss with your specific supplier.

Another device developed after a serious accident is available also. The device warns the driver of the differential pressure between the 2 valves and advises the actual pressure in the trailer tanks, any leaks and any duomatic issues with an audible warning and indicator lights including an event logger. This device is NZTA approved and is already fitted to many large fleet owners' vehicles. Operators should check out Proactive Transport Innovation site for details of this.



