

<b>SAFETY ALERT</b>	
<b>Issue date</b>	15 March 2013
<b>Details of incident</b>	<p>Two years ago Dunedin Police investigated a fatal crash that involved <b>unintentional release of a park brake</b>. During the investigation, warranted Health and Safety Inspectors from CVIU prepared and issued a Safety Alert that was placed on the (then) Department of Labour website.</p> <p>The make of the brake control valve was “Sanwa Seiki”. These valves have been fitted predominantly to Nissan CW330-CW380 trucks (although this model valve may have been fitted to other makes of truck).</p> <p>Unfortunately further instances have come to light involving similar faults with this type of park brake control valve, with one example found to be in worse condition than that fitted to the truck involved in the fatal crash.</p> <p>See the MBIE’s hazard alert bulletin for more information on the incident <a href="http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/series/haz81-truck-brake-failure.html">http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/series/haz81-truck-brake-failure.html</a></p>
<b>Investigation</b>	<p>During the investigation it was found that there have been numerous instances of unintentional brake releases involving this type of brake valve that had gone unreported.</p> <p>At the time there were considerable enquiries made with both operators and service providers. Some information was also supplied by vehicle manufacturers to their respective service agents and follow-up was made by UD Truck Distributors (UK) Limited directly with vehicle owners.</p> <p>See the MBIE’s hazard alert bulletin for more information on the investigation <a href="http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/series/haz81-truck-brake-failure.html">http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/series/haz81-truck-brake-failure.html</a></p>
<b>Recommended preventative actions</b>	<p>Be aware of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential hazard that exists with this type of park brake control valve;</li> <li>• The specific maintenance requirements regarding the general condition of the park brake control valve;</li> <li>• Operational precautions to be exercised when applying the park brake and when entering and alighting the cab.</li> </ul>

	<p>Any operators who may have experienced an unintentional brake release in vehicles fitted with this type of brake control valve (and who may have dismissed the event as simply a consequence of not having engaged the park brake correctly) need to have the park brake checked.</p> <p>Operators also need to ensure that the brake control valve is serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.</p> <p><b>“Any doubts get it checked out”</b></p> <p>See the MBIE's hazard alert bulletin for more information on recommended preventative actions  <a href="http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/series/haz81-truck-brake-failure.html">http://www.osh.govt.nz/publications/series/haz81-truck-brake-failure.html</a></p>
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