

H TECHNICAL BULLETIN

TRAILER SUSPENSION SYSTEMS WITH AUTO DUMP FEATURE

SUBJECT: Loading Dock Approach Procedure for
Trailers with Automatic Dump Valve

LIT NO: B109

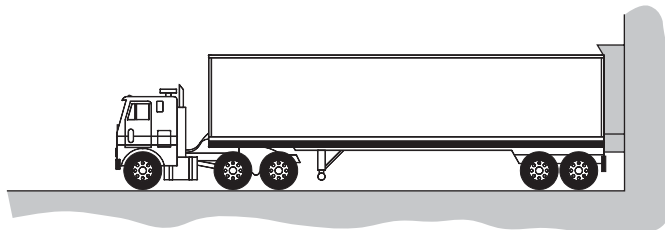
DATE: April 2001

Exhausting the suspension of an air ride trailer can result in a forward movement of the trailer known as "trailer walk." When backed against a loading dock, this undesirable forward movement can increase the distance between the trailer and the loading dock, causing difficulty for those loading or unloading the trailer.

This bulletin describes the proper procedure for backing a trailer equipped with an automatic air suspension dump valve against a loading dock. The procedure attempts to exhaust the suspension as much as possible before the trailer is moved to its final position against the loading dock, thereby reducing the potential for "trailer walk." However, due to the large variety of possible plumbing configurations and dump valve operating characteristics, this procedure may not effectively limit trailer walk in all cases.

Keep all bystanders away from the trailer and loading dock area during the below referenced procedure. Do not conduct any trailer loading/unloading operations until the below referenced procedure is completed and the trailer is properly secured with wheel chocks and/or other means as required by applicable regulations, codes and safe operating practices.

1. Slowly back the trailer toward the loading dock until the rear of the trailer makes contact with the dock.

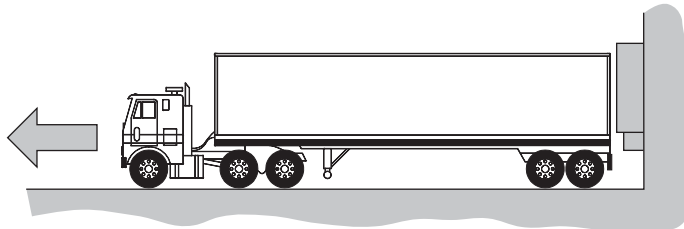


2. With the trailer against the dock, apply the parking brakes.



On trailers equipped with an automatic dump valve, applying the parking brakes will begin to exhaust the trailer air suspensions.

3. Wait until the trailer air suspensions are fully exhausted. Although some dump valves may take longer, a good rule of thumb is to wait at least 10 seconds after applying the parking brakes for the air suspensions to fully exhaust.
4. Release the parking brakes. This allows the trailer to move slightly forward and/or drop down as the air suspensions begin to refill.



NOTE: Do not apply the service brakes when releasing the parking brakes. This will prevent the trailer from moving forward and/or dropping down.

5. If the trailer moved away from the dock, immediately back the trailer up to re-establish contact with the loading dock.
6. Apply the parking brakes again to firmly hold the trailer against the loading dock.



When the parking brakes are released on trailers equipped with an automatic air suspension dump valve, the height control valve will immediately begin to refill the trailer air suspensions. Since this refilling process takes a few minutes, you have an opportunity to reposition the trailer against the loading dock while the air suspensions are still relatively empty. However you must respond quickly. More air refills the trailer air suspensions the longer you wait, thus defeating the purpose of steps three and four.

Call Hendrickson at **866.RIDEAIR (743.3247)** for additional information.



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