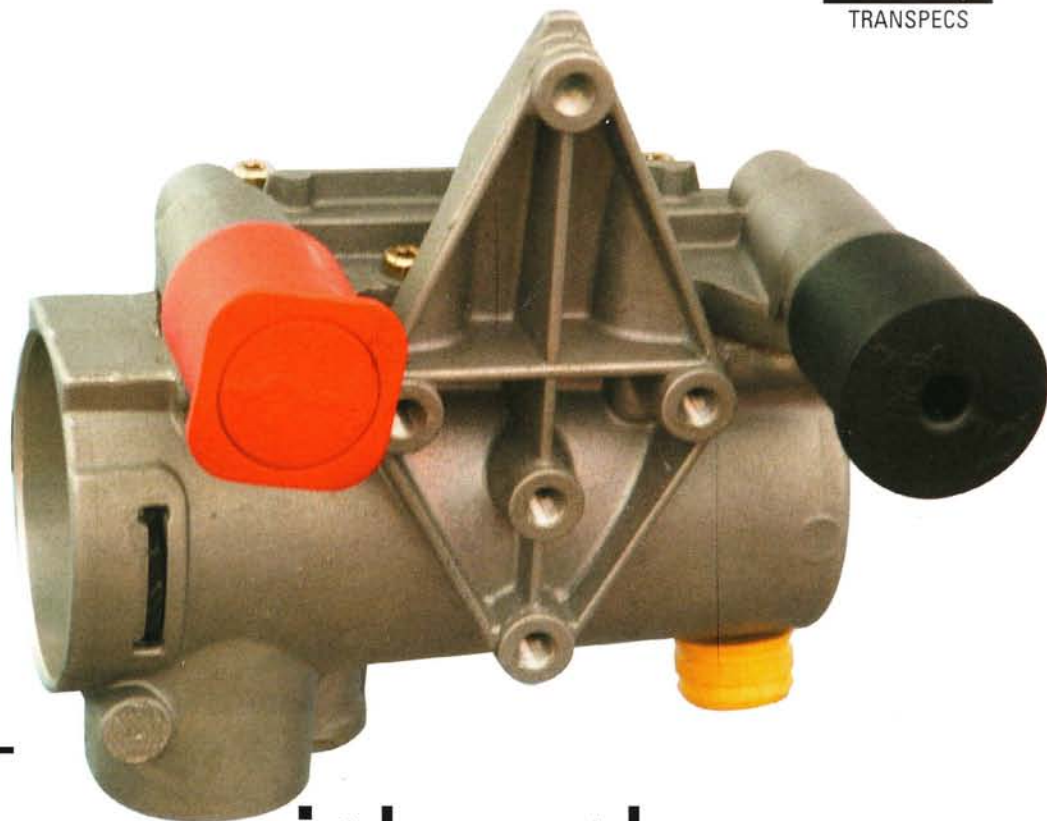


The PREV system is used in conjunction with ABS or TEBS.



Transpecs – Working with others to improve braking

Transpecs has recently introduced the WABCO Park Release Emergency Valve (PREV) in the New Zealand trucking market.

Transpecs has said that they are committed to providing braking equipment, systems, and solutions that will enhance vehicle safety on New Zealand's roads. The introduction of the new PREV will help Transpecs achieve this commitment because it provides enhanced control and stability for the driver in an emergency braking event.

Transpecs is New Zealand's distributor for WABCO's vehicle control systems and has always shared their partner's passion when it comes to vehicle control, stability, and safety. Transpecs, along with their partner, WABCO, has often been first to market in New Zealand in introducing new braking technology.

For example, in 2003, Transpecs introduced WABCO's load sensing valves to provide greater braking performance throughout the laden braking condition. This type of design was later adopted as standard across the New Zealand trucking market, despite initial concerns.

Also in 2003, Transpecs introduced WABCO's Trailer Electronic Braking System (TEBS). TEBS allows electronic activation of the braking components to reduce response and build-up times in the brake cylinders. This electronic activation, in turn, reduces braking distance by several metres, which can be decisive in some situations. The integrated ABS function ensures driving stability and steerability throughout an emergency braking event.

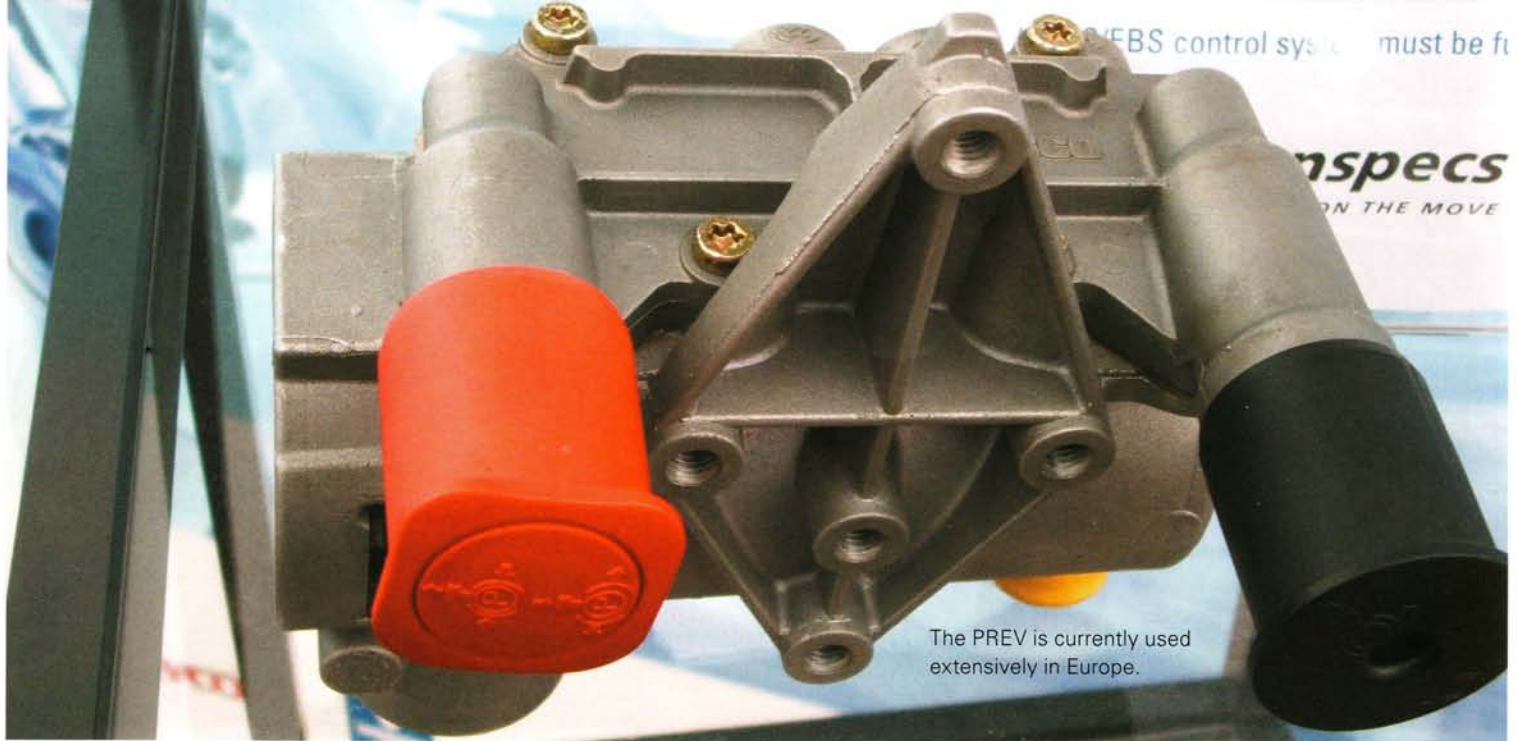
PREV is Transpecs' latest introduction into the New Zealand market with partners WABCO. The PREV simplifies the trailer braking system by replacing the trailer emergency valve and the double release valve. The PREV also provides improved safety over the traditional two-valve system. In an emergency situation, when there is a loss of pressure in the brake system reservoirs, the PREV will automatically initiate the application of the trailer's service brake.

Also, when the trailer is parked that has the PREV, the service brakes are applied instead of the spring brakes. In the event of a pressure loss in the service brake system while the trailer is parked, the PREV will automatically apply the spring brakes to prevent the trailer from rolling away.

The main advantage of the PREV system is that it is used in conjunction with ABS or TEBS. If there is a loss of brake supply line pressure, vehicle control and stability will be maintained. Not only will it be maintained, but it will be applied in a modulated manner through the ABS system which allows for improved safety for the driver because they can maintain their ability to steer the vehicle.

In addition, because all of the brakes on the trailer will be actuated, tyre damage through flat spotting is prevented. The final advantage of the PREV is that when the system is initially pressurised, the integrity of the braking system is automatically checked for leaks.

Because Transpecs is often first to market to introduce



The PREV is currently used extensively in Europe.

new technology, the company often has to work closely with government authorities to get the new technologies accepted and approved for use in the New Zealand market.

For example, Transpecs had to work closely with authorities for over 12 months to introduce WABCO's load sensing valve in 2003. The original brake code did not allow for the load sensing valve to be used in New Zealand even though it was already used widely in Europe. Through extensive testing with Transpecs and WABCO, the authorities in New Zealand were convinced that the load sensing valve was safer than the existing technology. As a result, the braking code was eventually changed.

Transpecs is currently going through a similar situation with the introduction of WABCO's PREV. The PREV is currently used extensively in Europe. However, the current braking regulations in New Zealand state that a trailer cannot be parked on the service brake. Because the PREV operates in this way, the regulations as written do not allow the PREV to be introduced.

However, Transpecs has been working with officials for over six months, according to Bruce Munro, Transpecs' Technical Services Manager, so that the benefits of the new technology offered by WABCO's PREV can be fully understood by the authorities and by the industry as a whole. Every trailer that Transpecs sells currently with PREV needs an exemption certificate, but because of Transpecs' work with the authorities it is thought the legislation will be changed in the near future to allow the PREV to be fitted without any additional paperwork.

Transpecs has said that they are committed to providing braking equipment, systems, and solutions that will enhance vehicle safety

on New Zealand's roads. To achieve this goal, they are willing to work with their partners and with authorities when necessary to improve the safety of the commercial trucking industry in the country.

Often Transpecs along with their partners investigates technology solutions that are available in other regions of the world for use in New Zealand. Currently, many of the new technologies are being adopted in Europe first and then migrating to New Zealand and elsewhere.

Bruce Monro from Transpecs said at the recent Expo in Hamilton, "Our suppliers are always investigating new technology. We are technically very strong so that our products keep moving forward."

Obviously, sometimes being the technology leader requires additional work. However, this work is worth it for Transpecs because they are improving the safety of the products they are supplying to customers.

Because of Transpecs' partnership with WABCO, the Transpecs' brake divisions have gained extensive knowledge and experience to enable them not only to discuss regulation changes with authorities but to also provide excellent service and technical support to customers. The technical expertise is also available through Transpecs' service network – Truckstops & Cable Price.

WABCO, the vehicle control systems division of American Standard, is the world's leading producer of electronic braking, stability, suspension, and transmission control systems for heavy duty commercial vehicles.

Transpecs, also known as Transport Specialties Limited, is based in Auckland and is one of New Zealand's leading distributors of OEM truck and trailer components. 

