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**Brake System Road Test Code—  
Passenger Car and Light Duty Truck—  
Trailer Combinations—SAE J134b**

SAE Recommended Practice  
Last Revised August 1975

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**PREPRINT**

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# BRAKE SYSTEM ROAD TEST CODE – PASSENGER CAR AND LIGHT DUTY TRUCK – TRAILER COMBINATIONS – SAE J134b

SAE Recommended Practice

Report of Brake Committee approved December 1970 and last revised August 1975.

1. INTRODUCTION—This recommended practice, in conjunction with SAE J135, is intended for use primarily by: (a) tow vehicle manufacturers testing with unbraked trailers to determine the maximum weight unbraked trailer which can be towed, and (b) by interested manufacturers to determine the adequacy of trailer brake systems. This procedure assumes a tow vehicle complying with existing applicable legal requirements.

2. SCOPE—This SAE recommended practice establishes a uniform procedure for the level road test of the brake systems of all combinations of new multipurpose passenger vehicles, new light-duty trucks up to and including 10,000 lb (4500 kg). GVW and new passenger cars when coupled with new trailers (braked or unbraked). For purposes of this test, adherence to each manufacturer's recommendations<sup>1</sup> is mandatory.

3. PURPOSE—The purpose of the test code is to establish a uniform test procedure to determine capabilities with regard to:

3.1 Deceleration versus input, as affected by vehicle speed, brake temperature and usage.

3.2 Brake system integrity within the limits of this test.

3.3 Stopping ability during:

3.3.1 Emergency conditions; and,

3.3.2 Inoperative power assist conditions.

## 4. INSTRUMENTATION

4.1 Tow vehicle line pressure and/or pedal force gage.

4.2 Decelerometer (U-tube or equivalent).

4.3 Direct reading temperature instrument.

4.4 Speedometer (calibrated vehicle unit or fifth wheel type).

4.5 Tire pressure gage.

4.6 Odometer (calibrated).

4.7 Thermometer—ambient (or ambient sensitive thermocouple).

4.8 Stopmeter (fifth wheel, distance only).

4.9 Voltmeter and Ammeter (where applicable).

4.10 Stop watch.

4.11 Trailer line pressure gage (where applicable).

4.12 Optional instrumentation.

4.12.1 Pedal travel gage.

4.12.2 Stop counter.

4.12.3 Strain gage ball or equivalent and required equipment to record fore and aft loads imposed on the tow vehicle.

## 5. INSTALLATION DETAILS

5.1 Friction Material Preparation—Attach and finish friction material per vehicle manufacturer's specifications.

5.2 Thermocouples—Install thermocouples in each tow vehicle and trailer brake per current SAE J843, BRAKE SYSTEM ROAD TEST CODE – PASSENGER CAR.

5.3 Brake Drum (or Rotor) and Hub Assembly—New drums (or rotors) recommended for each complete test (section 6). Surface finish and dimensional characteristics including runout of rubbing surface to be in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

### 5.4 Brake Assembly

5.4.1 Towing Vehicle—Brakes to be prepared in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. New springs and linings recommended on all brakes for each complete test (section 6). Adjust brakes to manufacturer's specifications.

5.4.2 Towed Vehicle—Applicable only when evaluating trailer brake systems. For all other tests trailers should be unbraked. Brakes are to be prepared in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. New springs,

<sup>1</sup>Tow vehicles shall incorporate that manufacturer's trailering package. Tow vehicle manufacturer's recommendations regarding hitching shall be followed. Hitches shall be set up according to hitch or tow vehicle manufacturer's recommendations, where applicable. Trailer brakes shall be set up according to recommendations of the brake system supplier. Trailer loading shall be in accordance with trailer manufacturer's recommendations except as modified in this procedure. Tires shall be inflated to vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.

## GENERAL DATA

TRAILER  
 TRAILER MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
 NUMBER OF AXLES \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF BRAKES \_\_\_\_\_ TIRE SIZE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIRE MFG. AND TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ TIRE PRESSURE \_\_\_\_\_  
 WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) + \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) BALLAST \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) (UNCOUPLED)  
 TONGUE LOAD AT COUPLING \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENT OF TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 TYPE OF HITCH \_\_\_\_\_  
 TRAILER AXLE(S) WEIGHT (COUPLED): FRONT \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) REAR \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG)  
 BRAKES \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ CYL DIA \_\_\_\_\_  
 LINING \_\_\_\_\_  
 TYPE OF ACTUATION \_\_\_\_\_

TOWING VEHICLE  
 MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENGINE \_\_\_\_\_ TRANSMISSION \_\_\_\_\_ AXLE RATIO \_\_\_\_\_  
 CURB WEIGHT: FRONT \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) REAR \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG)  
 TEST WEIGHT: FRONT \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) REAR \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ LB (KG) (TRAILER COUPLED)  
 GVWR OR GCWR WEIGHTS \_\_\_\_\_  
 MINIMUM WEIGHTS \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIRE MFG. \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ PRESSURE: F \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRAKES \_\_\_\_\_  
 FRONT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ DESCRIPTION TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ CYL DIA \_\_\_\_\_  
 REAR SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ DESCRIPTION TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ CYL DIA \_\_\_\_\_  
 LINING FRONT \_\_\_\_\_ REAR \_\_\_\_\_  
 DRUM (DISC) TYPE: FRONT \_\_\_\_\_ REAR \_\_\_\_\_  
 MASTER CYL DIA \_\_\_\_\_ STROKE \_\_\_\_\_ SPLIT: FRONT \_\_\_\_\_ % REAR \_\_\_\_\_ %  
 PEDAL: PEDAL RATIO \_\_\_\_\_ AVAILABLE TRAVEL \_\_\_\_\_  
 POWER BRAKE YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE \_\_\_\_\_  
 HYDRAULIC SYSTEM \_\_\_\_\_ FRONT METERING \_\_\_\_\_ REAR PROPORTIONING \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ PSI \_\_\_\_\_ PSI \_\_\_\_\_ SLOPE \_\_\_\_\_

TEST INFORMATION  
 THERMOCOUPLE INSTALLATION METHOD \_\_\_\_\_  
 TESTED BY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: TEST STARTED \_\_\_\_\_ TEST COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_  
 AMBIENT TEMPERATURE RANGE: HIGH \_\_\_\_\_ F (C) LOW \_\_\_\_\_ F (C)

FIG. 1—GENERAL DATA SHEET

## SUMMARY SHEET

TEST NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 TEST PHASE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PREBURNISH CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVENESS TESTS

	1ST	2ND	3RD	
30 MPH (48 km/h) AT 16 FT/S <sup>2</sup> (5.2m/s <sup>2</sup> )	_____	_____	_____	LB (N) PEDAL FORCE
60 MPH (97 km/h) AT 16 FT/S <sup>2</sup> (5.2m/s <sup>2</sup> )	_____	_____	_____	LB (N) PEDAL FORCE

EMERGENCY BRAKE TEST  
 WARNING SYSTEM ACTUATION TYPE: POWER \_\_\_\_\_ MANUAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 60 MPH (97 km/h) STOPPING DISTANCE \_\_\_\_\_ GVWR OR GCWR \_\_\_\_\_

	FRONT OPERATING	REAR OPERATING	
FRONT OPERATING	_____ FT (m)	_____ FT (m)	LB (N) PEDAL FORCE
REAR OPERATING	_____ FT (m)	_____ FT (m)	LB (N) PEDAL FORCE

MINIMUM TOW VEHICLE WEIGHT

	FRONT OPERATING	REAR OPERATING	
FRONT OPERATING	_____ FT (m)	_____ FT (m)	LB (N) PEDAL FORCE
REAR OPERATING	_____ FT (m)	_____ FT (m)	LB (N) PEDAL FORCE

INOPERATIVE POWER SYSTEM TEST  
 60 MPH (97 km/h) STOPPING DISTANCE \_\_\_\_\_ FT (m) \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) PEDAL FORCE

FIRST FADE AND RECOVERY TEST  
 FADE STOPS 1-4 \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) PEDAL FORCE (OR MIN DECEL)  
 RECOVERY STOPS 1-5 \_\_\_\_\_ FT/S<sup>2</sup> (m/s<sup>2</sup>) AT \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) MAX PEDAL FORCE  
 RECOVERY STOPS 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) MAX PEDAL FORCE

SECOND FADE AND RECOVERY TEST  
 FADE STOPS 1-8 \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) PEDAL FORCE (OR MIN, DECEL)  
 RECOVERY STOPS 1-5 \_\_\_\_\_ FT/S<sup>2</sup> (m/s<sup>2</sup>) AT \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) MAX PEDAL FORCE  
 RECOVERY STOPS 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_ LB (N) MAX PEDAL FORCE

STABILITY DURING EFFECTIVENESS TESTS  
 CONTROLLABLE BRAKING THROUGH 16 FT/S<sup>2</sup> (5.2 m/s<sup>2</sup>)  
 YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL INSPECTION  
 LINING INTEGRITY YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 MECHANICAL INTEGRITY YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
 HYDRAULIC INTEGRITY YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

REPORTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FIG. 2—SUMMARY SHEET

linings, magnets and armatures where applicable are recommended on all brakes for each complete test (section 6). Adjust brakes to manufacturer's specifications.

## 5.5 Towing Vehicle Test Weight

5.5.1 Passenger Car—The manufacturer's recommended axle test loading





