

## Technical Assistance: 103

### Handbrake calipers – Occasional spongy pedal.

**Symptom:** After releasing the handbrake, the brake pedal is spongy on the first few applications, but then corrects itself. The same problem occurs every time the handbrake is used.

**Cause:** Air trapped in the piston casing. Pressing of the brake pedal compresses the air trapped in the piston casing. Once pressurised, it uses the self-adjuster faces as a valve and traps the compressed air in the casing. Normal pedal feel occurs until the handbrake is used, this breaks the seal and the air expands back into the hydraulic system.

**Solution:** Unbolt the caliper housing from its guide pins and open the bleed nipple. Air rises; so, rotate the caliper piston face down (if pipe-work allows) and expel air from the piston casing; then make sure the bleed nipple is at the top and expel any remaining air then tighten the nipple. Refit the caliper to its guide pins.



#### Note

Budweg vacuum fill all know problem calipers with brake fluid; then they seal them to aid installers.