

Technical Assistance: 201

Brake pedal creeps – Possible solutions.

There may be fluid loss caused by a leak somewhere in the hydraulic braking system. Urgent attention is required if regular top up of fluid is needed - because this indicates a leak!

Cause: If there is no loss of fluid, the problem will be caused by fluid being forced past a worn seal or a valve. This could happen in the master cylinder, ABS valve block, or pressure regulator valve.

Master Cylinder fault.

On a single circuit system (one outlet pipe), the fault is likely to be in the master cylinder. Pedal creep (with no loss of fluid) is unusual with tandem (twin circuit) master cylinders; but it may happen. The answer is to strip down the cylinder and check for damaged or contaminated seals or corrosion of the cylinder bore-----and rectify. It may be necessary to replace the cylinder.



Note

See separate entry Diesel Engine Vehicles (Tech Note 202)

ABS equipped vehicles.

Although rare, we have found that sometimes the operation of the ABS system solves a creeping pedal problem. Our theory is; due to a lack of brake fluid changes and the ABS never being used, gradual corrosion of the valves and seats allows fluid under pressure to pass the closed valve. The 30 times a second operation of the valve when the ABS is activated removes the corrosion and allows the valve to properly seal again-----PERHAPS!

Regulating valve fault.

If the regulating valve has a combination of primary and secondary circuit pipes attached, then this valve could be at fault. It is unusual, but it could happen. The solution is to replace the valve.

Fluid Loss.

It is imperative that any loss of brake fluid is quickly identified and corrected, otherwise there is a risk of brake failure.