



# BULLETIN

**TO: All Dealer Service Representatives**

**FROM: Tom Furdek**

**DATE: 5/10/10**

**RE: New Brake Burnish Procedure**

**Service Topic # 300**



Pierce recommends a burnishing procedure be done after a new truck has been delivered and has been loaded to it's in service weight. This same practice should also be done, after new brakes, disc brake pads or drum brake shoes have been installed. This will ensure that they are broken in properly and will give proper performance during stopping and grade holding.

Below is the procedure that is recommended:

**CAUTION: Make sure the driving route is in a safe, low traffic area.**

Before starting the brake burnish procedure, make sure the brake chamber slack adjuster strokes, both free and applied, are within the brake supplier specifications. For brakes without slack adjusters, ensure that the caliper running clearance is correct. This information can be found in the axle manuals supplied with the truck.

**The brake burnish procedure is called 30/30/30 and 5.**

Under safe conditions, make **30** stops from **30** miles per hour (mph) with a **30** second interval of time between each stop to allow the brakes to cool slightly. The time it should take to stop from 30 mph to 0 mph is **5** seconds. This will equate to a gentle stop.

During the burnishing procedure for new pads or shoes, it is common to smell the resins coming out of the lining material. This odor may disappear near the end of the burnish or shortly after the truck goes into service.

The brakes may also appear to be smoking. Again, these are the resins and other organic materials getting baked out of the linings. If you suspect one of the brakes is not performing the way it should, measure the brake rotor or drum temperature using an infrared (IR) hand held thermometer.

The infrared (IR) thermometer readings can vary depending on the location of the IR beam on the object. Try to get within 12 inches of the drum or rotor and always try to check the same area of the component. Brake temperatures can vary from side to side on an axle as well as axle to axle.

Following this procedure should provide sufficient burnishing of the brakes and allow the truck brakes to perform as intended. Contact Pierce if you have any questions or concerns regarding the brake system or performance.