Electronic Braking Performance Monitoring System(s) (EBPMS) and their use when assessing braking performance

Braking performance of the vehicle and/or trailers can be monitored and assessed using EBPMS. Braking performance must be monitored and compared against the statutory requirements for the type of vehicle or trailer fitted with EBPMS.

To enable EBPMS to be used as evidence for the operators’ preventative maintenance system, ideally the system would identify the position of a defective brake. It must, however, be capable of at least, identifying overall vehicle braking performance value.

DVSA does not ‘approve’ software systems or hardware devices but does acknowledge an industry standard specification for EBPMS, which may be used to supplement the operators’ maintenance arrangements. Ultimately it is the operators’ responsibility to ensure their vehicles are operated in a safe condition at all times, that the maintenance system used is fit for their particular set of circumstances and meets the undertakings of the operator licence.

Manufacturers of EBPMS will need to demonstrate how their system adequately monitors and reports braking performance and that it conforms to the industry standard specification.

In-service braking performance defects

The system must be capable of alerting the operator to under-performing service brakes.

Safety inspection brake performance evidence

It is essential that the system provides braking performance evidence where this is to be used for the safety inspection braking performance report. Evidence can either be stored electronically or as a printout, which should be retained in-line with the guide to maintaining roadworthiness.

Reports must be in a format that clearly identifies:
• the vehicle or trailer
• assessment date and the monitoring period.
• a value for the service braking performance for the assessment period.
The monitoring period shall be the period between the scheduled safety inspection intervals.

Operators who use EBPMS as service braking performance evidence, are expected to include a braking performance report on every safety inspection record, unless either a suitable roller brake test or decelerometer test was conducted.
If EBPMS provides insufficient data to deliver a service braking performance value an alternative method shall be used to assess service braking performance and records retained.

**Parking brake performance**

Where EBPMS is unable to assess parking brake performance but the service brake performance is reported to be performing satisfactorily by an EBPMS, a visual inspection of the parking brake components and check of system operation would be accepted as the minimum requirement for a parking brake safety inspection. If there is any doubt over the parking brake performance further tests must be conducted.

**Defect rectification**

When braking deficiencies are identified the operator needs to ensure appropriate action is taken to investigate, remedy and evidence any reported defects, as detailed in the guide to maintaining roadworthiness.

**Key Information**

- Manufacturers of EBPMS will need to demonstrate that their system adequately assesses and reports braking performance and must also conform to industry standard specification.

- The EBPMS shall be capable of reporting overall service braking performance.

- An EBPMS braking performance report must clearly identify the vehicle or trailer, the assessment date and also provide an overall result for the service braking performance since the last safety inspection.

- Braking performance evidence can be stored electronically or as a printout. All records should be retained in-line with the guide to maintaining roadworthiness.

- The operator needs to ensure appropriate action is taken to investigate, remedy and evidence any reported defects.


- Ultimately it is the operators’ responsibility to ensure that the EBPMS system is fit for their particular set of circumstances and used correctly.
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