2015-08 – Advancements in Motorcoach Air Brake Systems

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Summary
This Inspection Bulletin provides guidance regarding a safety feature that has been added to the air brake system of some motorcoaches. It provides information to assist in determining when a vehicle is in violation.

Background
When a predetermined air pressure is reached in a brake system equipped with this safety feature, the auxiliary air system dumps air into the braking system reservoirs.

That predetermined pressure may be below the low air warning device cut-in pressure. This allows for more brake reserve in case of an emergency.

When checking the low air warning device, the air pressure in the tanks will drop, the low air warning device will come on and then, with the engine still off, the air pressure will build back up above a pressure that will deactivate the low air warning device. The only indication of what happened in this case, is the air pressure gauge for the auxiliary tank will have gone down.

Guidance
If the inspector tests the low air warning device from that point forward during the inspection, the low air warning device will come on and stay on.