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## BREAK-IN PERIOD FOR ELECTRIC DRUM BRAKES

The break-in period is a typical phenomenon with drum brakes and especially with electric drum brakes. Electric drum brakes will always require a break-in period. This needs to occur whenever there is a new axle installation and anytime new brake shoes and/or magnets are installed as part of regular maintenance.

Our manufacturers have found through extensive brake testing that the break-in period for drum brakes can range from 20 to 50 brake applications.

- **Brakes can be seated in by applying approximately 8-10 volts to the trailer brakes at an initial speed of 40 mph and allowing the truck/trailer combination to slow down to 20 or 25 mph.**
- **For best results do not use truck brakes during this procedure!**

The trailer brakes will seat in faster by using them to stop both the truck and trailer. The easiest method is to apply the trailer brakes using the manual activation lever located on the in-cab brake controller. Care must be taken to not overheat the lining material, therefore brake applications conducted at one mile intervals will suffice.

The driver should feel a noticeable difference in the brake performance during this period, sometimes in as few as 10 applications.

- **After 50 applications, the brake lining material will be fully cured from the heat and develop close to 100% contact with the brake drum surface.**

This break-in period not only seats the shoe lining material but also seats in the brake electro-magnets. During the break-in period, the linings will wear at a faster rate than they do after they are seated in.

**NOTE: Brakes should be manually adjusted after the first 500 miles of operation and periodically thereafter at approximately 3,000 mile intervals.**

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