

Air Brake Test – Step by Step

The Air Brake test must be done in sequence to ensure the air brake system is functioning properly for the safe operation of the school bus. Complete each step in its entirety, no short cuts.

STEP 1- *Checking the air pressure gauges and compressor*

- 1- With the bus on - build air pressure to the governed cut-out (120-140 psi). Identify when your vehicles compressor cuts out (Do not just say/assume you have a full tank at 120 psi, must hear the audible spit of the tank and identify when that occurs on your bus when testing)
- 2- Shut the bus off
- 3- Turn the key to the right, let the gauges cycle through

STEP 2 – *Checking for air leakage*

- 4- With foot on the brake pedal, Release the parking brake
- 5- Watch the gauge to see that the system does not lose more than 3 psi in 1 minute (any movement <needle width> after the initial drop). ***It is very important to wait the FULL 1 minute because the bus is off and the compressor is not pushing the air through the lines, it takes time for the air to travel from the tanks through the whole system to detect a leak. Do not rush or shortcut this step!!!*

STEP 3 – *Checking the low air pressure warning system*

- 6- Begin to fan off the air pressure. The warning light and buzzer needs to activate by 55psi
- 7- Identify when the low air pressure warning light and buzzer activate – on your particular bus

STEP 4 – *Checking the emergency spring brake*

- 8- Continue fanning off the air pressure
- 9- Identify when the spring brake sets - between 45-20 psi.

****If the bus fails any part of this test – It is unsafe to drive.**

Air brake test is complete.

******When testing, for this brake test, you must complete each step, one at a time. Describe what you will be doing in the step with the general numbers. Then perform the step and identify when exactly your bus completes that step before moving on to the next step. Failure to do this properly will result in an automatic failure.**





Parking brake test

This test is checking that the parking brake will hold and function properly.

- 1-With the bus running, Parking brake set, Shift into gear (Drive)
- 2-Step on the accelerator to engage the engine
- 3- You should feel a tug on the engine, BUT the bus should NOT move forward.
- 4- Parking brake holds.

****If the bus moves forward at all, the bus has failed the test. It is not safe to drive****

Test is complete

Service Brake Test

This test checks for proper adjustment of the service brakes

- 1- With the bus running, Shift into gear (Drive)
- 2- Release the Parking brake
- 3- Step on the accelerator, driving the bus forward at approximately 5 mph
- 4- Apply steady pressure to the brake pedal feeling for any excessive pulling to the left or the right.

****If the bus pulls hard to either side the brakes are out of adjustment. It is not safe to drive****

Test is complete