



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** January 28, 2013

**In reply refer to:** H-12-63 and -64

Mr. Stephen A. Keppler  
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Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance  
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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On December 11, 2012, the NTSB adopted its report on the Miriam, Nevada, highway-railroad grade crossing collision on June 24, 2011, in which a Peterbilt truck-tractor pulling two empty side-dump trailers and traveling north on US Highway 95 struck an Amtrak passenger train. The collision destroyed the truck-tractor and two passenger railcars. Four train passengers, the train conductor, and the truck driver were killed.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the investigation report, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/HAR-12/03.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued a total of 19 new recommendations to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Nevada Highway Patrol, the American Trucking Associations, the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, the Towing and Recovery Association of America Inc., the American Bus

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<sup>1</sup> See *Highway–Railroad Grade Crossing Collision, US Highway 95, Miriam, Nevada, June 24, 2011*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-12/03 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2012).

Association, the United Motorcoach Association, and John Davis Trucking Company, Inc., including the following two recommendations to the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance:

H-12-63

Inform commercial vehicle inspectors of (1) the importance of taking pushrod stroke measurements within the specified pressure range, (2) the relationship between pushrod stroke and specific air pressure, and (3) the consequence of taking measurements outside of this range.

H-12-64

Inform your members of the need to avoid backing off air brake slack adjusters after a vehicle has been involved in an accident.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HERSMAN, Vice Chairman HART, and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. To avoid confusion, please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

*[Original Signed]*

By: Deborah A. P. Hersman  
Chairman