

5 BRAKE SAFETY REMINDERS FOR YOUR DRIVERS: **Picking up a new trailer**

New-to-you trailers can hide problems. Before you roll, do the following:

1 Check brake components first

Measure pushrod stroke, confirm both sides of each axle have matching chambers, hoses, and slack adjusters. No missing parts; no cracks in drums or rotors.

2 Inspect air tanks and air lines

Tanks must be secure, leak-free, and not shifting more than an inch. Look for cuts, chafing, bulges, heat damage, or worn-through outer layers. No improvised fittings. Listen for leaks.

3 Confirm the system passes functional checks

Verify acceptable air-loss rate and make sure the tractor protection valve isn't exhausting air through the service line.

4 Don't move until you have full air

Spring brakes release does not mean the trailer is ready. Always wait for full operating pressure every time.

5 Test the brakes before leaving the yard

Service brakes: roll slowly and apply. **Spring brakes:** pull against them or roll and close the trailer supply valve. The trailer must hold firm, or it doesn't leave the yard.

*On older spring-priority trailers, practice emergency stopping with the trailer supply valve at low speed in a safe area, so you know how it responds during air loss.

Stay sharp. Stay safe.

