

OFFICIAL FLEET SURVEY



Technology & Maintenance Council

HEAVY-DUTY BRAKE UTILIZATION SURVEY RESULTS

S.6 Chassis & Brake Systems Study Group



FEBRUARY 2024

TMC HEAVY-DUTY BRAKE UTILIZATION SURVEY RESULTS

SUMMARY

TMC's S.6 Chassis & Brake Systems Study Group conducted an online survey of approximately 500 TMC Fleet Executive level members in January and February 2024 to determine fleet brake system utilization. The survey was also posted to TMC's LinkedIn Social Media Feed. Twenty-eight fleet representatives responded to the survey.

Fifty percent of respondents were from motor carriers. About 27 percent were private carrier representatives. About 46 percent were in regional operations while about 42 percent were in longhaul operations. About 55 percent of respondents' companies operated nationally.

Fleet size ranged considerably across respondents. About 33 percent of responding fleets had 201-999 power units; about 26 percent had 1000 or more power units. About 61 percent of responding fleets operated dry-van trailers, but other trailer types were well represented in the sample, with tankers being next at about 42 percent.

The typical power unit life cycle was reported to be 6-10 years by about 44 percent of fleets. The typical trailer unit life cycle was more than 10 years for about 61 percent of fleets.

Those reporting exclusive use of air disc brakes or S-cam drum brakes was evenly split at about 29 percent. About 36 percent reported employing a combination air disc/S-cam brake configuration. A tractor disc/trailer drum configuration was the most commonly reported at 42 percent.

The majority of responding fleets said they are either converting to or have converted to air disc brakes if they currently use S-cam drum brakes (73 percent).

Reduced maintenance was the number one reason why fleets said they used S-cam brakes (59.3 percent) with a mix of "Other" reasons being the second most reported response at 36.3 percent.

Improved performance was the number one reason why fleets said they used air disc brakes (54.5 percent) with enhanced safety being the second most reported response at 37 percent.

The top two reported influencing characteristics that drove a fleet's current direction for brake system specifications were stopping performance (50 percent) and life/miles of brake wear (43 percent).

