

Bendix® LP-2™ & LP-3™ Low Pressure Indicators

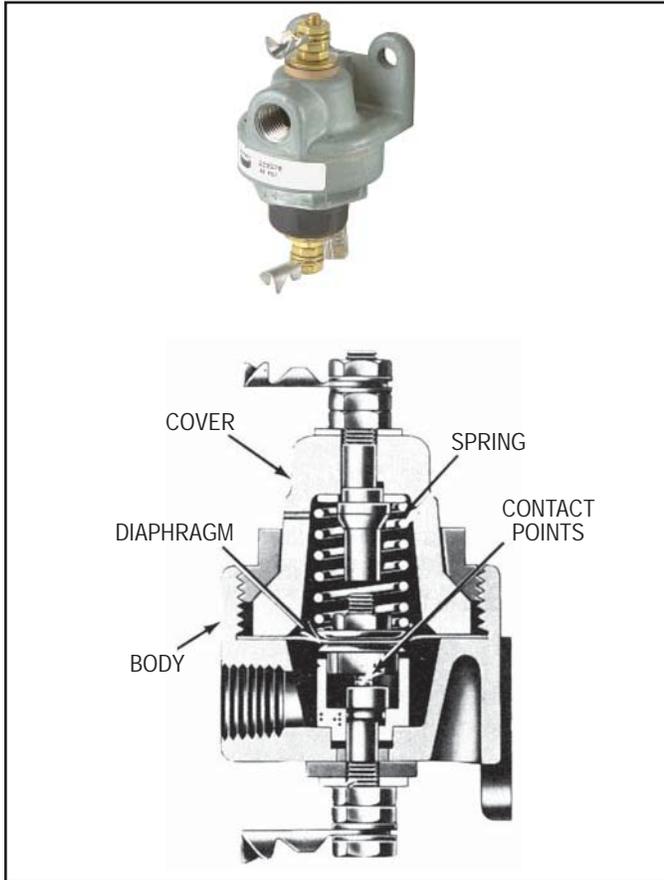


FIGURE 1 - BENDIX® LP-2™ LOW PRESSURE INDICATOR

DESCRIPTION

The low pressure indicator is a safety device designed to give an automatic warning to the driver whenever air pressure in the air brake system is below the safe minimum for normal vehicle operation. It is usually used to operate an electrical buzzer or warning light, or both, which are audible or visible to the driver.

Two styles of low pressure indicators are currently manufactured.

The Bendix® LP-2™ low pressure indicator, which is the older style, consists of a die cast body with a spring loaded diaphragm clamped between the body and the Bakelite cover.

The Bendix® LP-3™ low pressure indicator is the newer style. It consists of a die cast body, nylon cover and

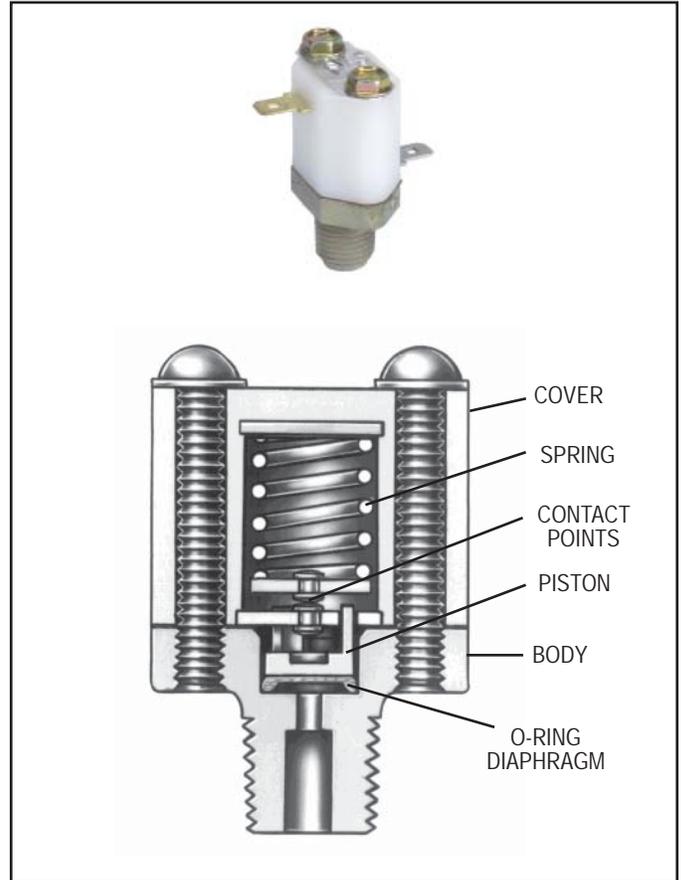


FIGURE 2 - BENDIX® LP-3™ LOW PRESSURE INDICATOR

employs a spring loaded o-ring diaphragm and piston. The LP-3™ indicator is available with either one terminal or two. The single terminal unit utilizes a metallic gasket between body and case to ground the lower contact strip. The two terminal unit utilizes a phenolic insulating gasket to isolate both terminals from the vehicle frame.

The electrical contacts provided in both the LP-2™ and LP-3™ indicators remain closed by spring force until the air brake system pressure below the diaphragm is above the setting (force) of the low pressure indicator spring. The setting of the indicator and piece number is marked on a label on the valve body. If a label is not present, then the vehicle manual should be consulted for the proper setting. The nominal setting of the indicator is 60 psi; however, pressure settings may vary depending upon the vehicle.

OPERATION

To describe the operation, we shall assume that the low pressure indicator is set for 60 psi. When air pressure at the supply port and under the diaphragm is above 60 psi, the electrical contacts remain open because the force exerted by air pressure underneath the diaphragm overcomes the force exerted by the spring above the diaphragm.

When air pressure below the diaphragm drops below 60 psi, the spring exerts a force which is greater than the force exerted by the air pressure below the diaphragm. This causes the diaphragm (and the piston in the Bendix® LP-3™ indicator) to move and allow the electrical contacts to close. This completes or closes the electrical circuit to the warning device, warning the driver of low air pressure in the system.

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Important: Review the Bendix Warranty Policy before performing any intrusive maintenance procedures. A warranty may be voided if intrusive maintenance is performed during the warranty period.

No two vehicles operate under identical conditions; as a result, maintenance intervals may vary. Experience is a valuable guide in determining the best maintenance interval for air brake system components. At a minimum, the low pressure indicator should be inspected every 6 months or 1500 operating hours, whichever comes first, for proper operation. Should the low pressure indicator not meet the elements of the operational tests noted in this document, further investigation and service of the valve may be required.

TESTING FOR SERVICEABILITY

OPERATING TEST

1. If possible, determine the setting of the low pressure indicator by referring to the label on the valve or the vehicle manual.
2. Operation of the low pressure indicator may be checked with ignition switch "on" by reducing the system pressure and observing that low pressure warning occurs when system pressure drops below the setting of the low pressure indicator. The contacts will be closed when the warning device operates. If the setting of the indicator is unknown, the contacts should close between approximately 70 psi and 50 psi.

LEAKAGE TEST

1. With air pressure present at the supply port, coat the indicator with a soap solution. No leakage is permitted.

REMOVING

1. Block the wheels or secure the vehicle with other than service brakes.
2. The ignition switch should be in the "off" position.
3. Drain the air from the system.

4. Disconnect the electrical connections at the low pressure indicator.
5. Disconnect the air line and mounting bolts or unscrew the Indicator from the fitting and remove.

INSTALLING

1. Install in a convenient location for servicing.
2. Connect to a reservoir pressure line at a high point in the system for adequate drainage.
3. If installing a Bendix® LP-2™ indicator, use a supply line of 1/4" O.D. minimum.
4. Connect the Indicator terminals in series with the ignition switch and the warning device.

DISASSEMBLY

NOTE: It is generally recommended that the low pressure indicator, if faulty, be replaced with a new unit; however, service parts are available; and if repairs are necessary, the following will apply:

LP-2™ indicator. Unscrew the cover retainer from the body. Remove cover and remove spring and diaphragm assembly.

LP-3™ indicator. Remove cover screw and lockwashers. Remove the cover, contact disc, spring, and shim(s). (Note: shims may or may not be present.) Remove contact plate, gasket, piston, and o-ring diaphragm.

CLEANING AND INSPECTION

1. Clean all metal parts in mineral spirits and dry them completely.
2. Inspect all parts for excessive wear or deterioration. Check the valve spring for cracks or corrosion.
3. Inspect contact points. If contact points are not severely pitted, they can be dressed with a fine file.

Replace all parts that were discarded and any parts not found to be serviceable during inspection, using only genuine Bendix replacement parts.

ASSEMBLY

NOTE: When using pipe thread sealant during assembly and installation, take particular care to prevent the sealant from entering the valve itself. Apply the sealant beginning with the second thread back from the end.

BENDIX® LP-2™ INDICATOR

1. Place and position the diaphragm assembly in the body. Position the spring so that it rests on the upper diaphragm follower.
2. Place the cover over the diaphragm and screw the cover retainer to the body and tighten securely. (Torque to 110-130 inch pounds.)

BENDIX® LP-3™ INDICATOR

1. Lubricate the bore of the body and both sides of the o-ring diaphragm with silicone lubricant BW-650-M (Bendix piece no. 291126).
2. Install the o-ring diaphragm in the body. (Note: the o-ring portion of diaphragm should face the supply port.)
3. Install the piston in the body. The flat side of the piston should face the o-ring diaphragm.
4. Install the gasket. (Always use a phenolic gasket in a two terminal switch and a metallic gasket in the single terminal switch.)
5. Position the contact plate over the fingers of the piston. The contact plate should rest on the face of the gasket.
6. If shim(s) are used, place shim(s) in cover.
7. Place the spring in the cover.
8. Place the contact point so that it rests on the spring.
9. Install the cover on the body using the machine screws. Make certain that the contact plate is in position over the fingers of the piston and the arm of the contact plate is positioned so that it will fit in the groove of the cover.
10. Tighten the screws securely. (Torque to 20-30 inch pounds).

TEST OF REBUILT LOW PRESSURE INDICATOR

After rebuilding, perform the leakage and operating tests as outlined in the section entitled "Testing for Serviceability."

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

WARNING! PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH:

When working on or around a vehicle, the following general precautions should be observed at all times.

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface, apply the parking brakes, and always block the wheels. Always wear safety glasses.
2. Stop the engine and remove ignition key when working under or around the vehicle. When working in the engine compartment, the engine should be shut off and the ignition key should be removed. Where circumstances require that the engine be in operation, **EXTREME CAUTION** should be used to prevent personal injury resulting from contact with moving, rotating, leaking, heated or electrically charged components.
3. Do not attempt to install, remove, disassemble or assemble a component until you have read and thoroughly understand the recommended procedures. Use only the proper tools and observe all precautions pertaining to use of those tools.
4. If the work is being performed on the vehicle's air brake system, or any auxiliary pressurized air systems, make certain to drain the air pressure from all reservoirs before beginning **ANY** work on the vehicle. If the vehicle is equipped with a Bendix® AD-IS® air dryer system or a dryer reservoir module, be sure to drain the purge reservoir.
5. Following the vehicle manufacturer's recommended procedures, deactivate the electrical system in a manner that safely removes all electrical power from the vehicle.
6. Never exceed manufacturer's recommended pressures.
7. Never connect or disconnect a hose or line containing pressure; it may whip. Never remove a component or plug unless you are certain all system pressure has been depleted.
8. Use only genuine Bendix® brand replacement parts, components and kits. Replacement hardware, tubing, hose, fittings, etc. must be of equivalent size, type and strength as original equipment and be designed specifically for such applications and systems.
9. Components with stripped threads or damaged parts should be replaced rather than repaired. Do not attempt repairs requiring machining or welding unless specifically stated and approved by the vehicle and component manufacturer.
10. Prior to returning the vehicle to service, make certain all components and systems are restored to their proper operating condition.
11. For vehicles with Automatic Traction Control (ATC), the ATC function must be disabled (ATC indicator lamp should be ON) prior to performing any vehicle maintenance where one or more wheels on a drive axle are lifted off the ground and moving.

