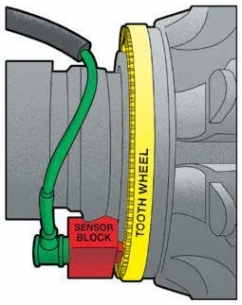
Anti-Lock Brake System

What is it?

An anti-lock brake system (ABS) is an electronic system that monitors and controls wheel speed during braking. The system monitors the wheel speed at all times. If it detects a wheel locking up during a brake application, the system releases brake pressure to that wheel only preventing the wheel from skidding. Vehicle stability and control is then increased even when braking on wet or ice-slicked roads, through curves or during lane changes.

How does it work?

Antilock Brake Systems (ABS) are handled by sensors, modulators and a computer. Sensors mounted on the axle ends relay a voltage signal that is interpreted as wheel speed by the ABS computer.

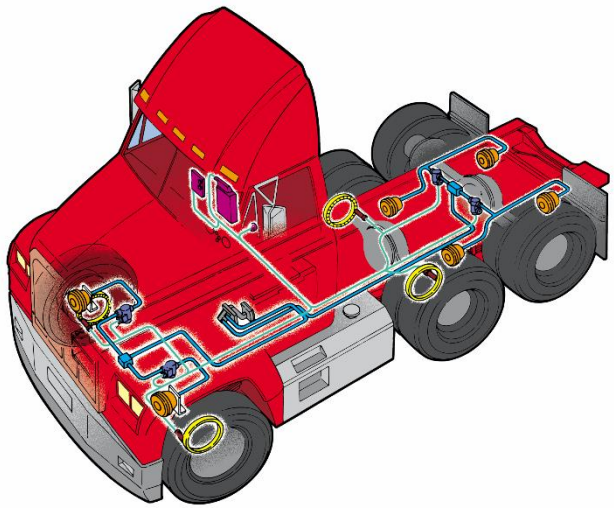


The computer calculates any differences in wheel speed and directs a modulator to release air pressure in the service chamber of the slower rotating wheels. The modulators can be mounted separately, near the chambers they control, or wing mounted directly to the relay or quick release valve of the axle group.

How does it apply to my driving?

ABS systems have been mandatory on all air brake trucks, buses, and trailers since April 1, 2000. ABS is supplemental to the air brake system and does not allow for faster driving or stopping. In some situations, the braking distance may be greater.

When driving a vehicle with an ABS, apply the brakes as normal to stop in time. When the ABS starts working, do not release the pressure you have applied to the brake pedal. Avoid pumping the brakes as the system automatically applies and releases the brakes up to five times per second, much faster than you can pump the brake pedal.



If you encounter a slippery road surface, when using an engine brake, the ABS will detect the wheel lock-up and automatically turn off the engine brake until traction is regained, then resume engine braking.