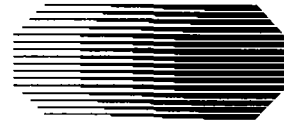


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**BRAKE
MANUFACTURERS
COUNCIL**

A Product Line Group of
Motor & Equipment
Manufacturers Association

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Brake Performance Rating Program Reaches Critical Mass

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. –The Brake Effectiveness Evaluation Procedure (BEEP®), the brake pad and shoe performance certification program of the Brake Manufacturers Council (BMC), has now reached critical mass, with the current number of available platforms representing 75 percent of the market.

The BEEP® program, unveiled at AAPEX in 2002, incorporates industry voluntary standards and guidelines for brake pad and shoe performance consistent with the Federal Safety Standards for OE braking systems. In the three years since the program was launched, BEEP® has continued to grow by expanding its offerings and raising awareness in the industry and with consumers.

“The mission of BEEP® is to give technicians and consumers confidence that they have purchased quality products manufactured by QS9000/ISO9001 certified companies. It also provides the technician criteria to validate brake pad and shoe effectiveness performance,” said Tim Duncan, Vice President Test Operations, Link Testing Laboratories, Inc. and chairman of the SAE Dynamometer Test Code Committee.

Certified BEEP® products are identified by a seal that may be placed on the packaging of parts that meet the performance criteria, as well as on other appropriate literature and marketing materials, he explained.

“We strongly encourage distributors, retailers, shop owners and technicians to learn more about BEEP certification,” Duncan added. As an industry-consortia the BMC will continue working with Standard Development Organizations (SDO), as recommended by the OMB Circular A119 and the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995.

The Brake Manufacturers Council is a product line group of the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA). More information is available online at www.brakecouncil.org.

MEMA (www.mema.org) represents more than 700 motor vehicle product manufacturers with nearly 12,000 U.S. plant locations and 830,000 workers. Together,

these companies keep the U.S. automotive and truck industry supplied with the components that enable it to produce some 17 million vehicles annually and keep the 214 million vehicles on the road with replacement products and services. MEMA supports its members through its three market segment associations: Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA) and Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA).

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