

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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BRAKE CABLES

It has come to our attention that "copy" brake cables are being offered for installation on original equipment as well as for replacements for Knott original brake cables. We wish to make you aware of the potential problems and possible pitfalls associated with using these parts.

When Knott tests and submits an approval for a brake it is done with a cable fitted to the brake and bent through 90 degrees, thereby any resistance or efficiency losses "in the cable" are taken into account when determining the brake performance. The cable efficiency is then recorded in the Approval documentation.

The "copy" brake cables that are being offered for sale have been inspected by Knott do not have the same efficiency as the Knott original cables. Knott original cables are manufactured with key features to ensure that the inner cable moves freely within the outer. Not only does this ensure that the inner cable is not restricted but it also prevents corrosion between the inner and outer cable that causes loss of brake efficiency and increases the possibility of the brake cable not releasing. In turn this may lead to accelerated brake shoe wear and overheating of the brake.

We have also measured the "copy" brake cables; 6 key dimensions were found to be incorrect, any one of which would have resulted in the cable being rejected. Furthermore, and most important; the "copy" cable failed under load. The end fitting came off which would have caused a brake failure had it been fitted to a trailer.

Every Knott brake cable assembly is manufactured using processes which ensure the correct attachment of the cable ends. Each cable is tested under load to ensure the security and integrity of the fittings. Our experience with "copy" cables has shown that fittings have come adrift when put under load; this suggests that these cables have not been tested.

Any future liability for the brake may be rendered void if these "copy" cables are fitted, thereby potentially leaving those companies and individuals, responsible for supplying and fitting the substandard cable, liable for any and all subsequent claims.

Knott original brake cable assemblies are:-

- Manufactured to ensure compatibility with components.
- Produced with a design and manufacturing process that is TUV approved.
- Approved to specific performance requirements.
- Individually tested to give confidence and security in use.

Always use  original components!