Preventing ABS Problems after Caliper or Pad Change

Application: All vehicles equipped with ABS systems.

Problem: ABS failure or malfunction soon after replacing caliper or pads.

Cause: Debris and other contamination collects in the caliper. When removing the caliper, if the caliper piston is forced back into the bore without opening the bleeder, contaminates in the fluid will be forced back into the ABS hydraulic unit and/or master cylinder causing valves/pistons to stick.

Solution: Never force brake fluid backwards in the system. Before pushing the piston back, always clamp off the caliper hose using a suitable hose pincher tool, and open the bleeder. Attach a hose to the bleeder and place the other end in a container. Now slowly force the piston back. Contaminated fluid will be discharged through the bleeder. When replacing any brake component, the entire brake system must be flushed. Follow OE bleeding procedures and use the recommended brake fluid. Always use fresh fluid from a sealed container.

Caution: Never open a bleeder valve or loosen a hydraulic line while ABS is pressurized.

Note: Use this procedure to protect all brake systems from contaminated fluid, especially vehicles with step bore master cylinders.