

Product warning and patent hint: Third party lining sets and retaining systems

The manufacturer Bretex GmbH in Dillingen offers repair kits for compressed air disc brakes of the WABCO PAN series. The repair sets each comprise a brake lining set, as well as the retaining set (holding-down springs, retaining clips, screws and end plugs).

At WABCO the repair kits on the market for WABCO brakes are regularly tested and inspected for quality on the basis of samples, not least because of the product monitoring duty required by law. The examinations of the stated "Bretex" repair kits have shown that the repair kits do not comply with WABCO standards of quality.

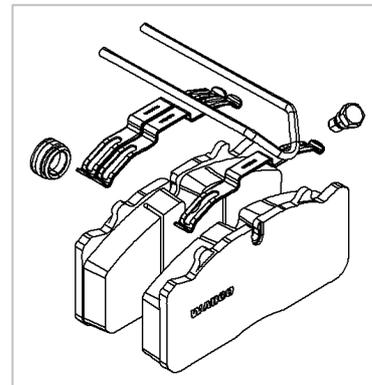


Fig. 1: WABCO repair kit

We therefore point out that the stated repair kits constitute a major risk to safety. The "Bretex" repair kits examined by WABCO had low quality hold-down springs installed.

Since the hold-down springs do not meet WABCO quality requirements, premature spring fractures must be expected while the vehicle is in operation. The spring force is also significantly greater than the value approved by WABCO. This means that excessive lining wear must be expected, requiring premature lining replacements on each axle as a result.

In the worst case the tyre inflating valves could come off or be damaged in the event of a spring fracture due to unsecured brake parts.

WABCO quality requirements correspond to 300,000 driven kilometres in overland transport. During the tests performed on the "Bretex" repair kits, all hold-down springs fractured within a short space of time. On no account does this meet our quality standards.

The test results prove that the springs have only 1.8 - 4.5 percent of the required service life. Due to the premature failures it must be assumed that these springs can fail well before the wear limit has been reached.



Fig. 2: The fractured third party hold-down springs

This is how you can recognise original WABCO hold-down springs

All original hold-down springs have the WABCO logo.

This makes it easy to distinguish them from (not approved) third party hold-down springs.

We point out that when spare parts not approved by WABCO are used no legal claims can be filed against WABCO for faults and any consequential damage.



Fig. 3: Original WABCO hold-down springs

WABCO hold-down systems are protected by patent (EP 0 694 707 B1) for the entire WABCO PAN series.

Only WABCO and authorised WABCO partners are permitted to distribute protected components. In the event of patent infringement, WABCO reserves the right to sue for damages and an injunction against the patent infringement, and the destruction of the objects which infringe patents, and also reserves the right to pursue prosecution under criminal law.