

No:

SB181-18

Date:

04/06/20

Issue:

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Subject:

Working on Dennis Elite Chassis Fitted With Air Suspension



**WHENEVER WORKING ON A DENNIS ELITE FITTED WITH AIR SUSPENSION IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE AWARE THAT AIR PRESSURE IN THE AIR SPRINGS/BAGS CAN DEplete AT ANY TIME WHICH RESULTS IN THE GAP BETWEEN THE CHASSIS AND THE AXLE DECREASING. CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN WORKING IN **ANY AREA** THAT COULD BE AFFECTED BY A DECREASE IN THIS GAP. IF YOU ARE CARRYING OUT A JOB THAT COULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS GAP FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW TO MAKE THE VEHICLE SAFE BEFORE WORKING ON.**

When removing any component associated or connected to the air suspension it is very important that all the air is drained from the truck before commencing work, this should be done by operating the manual drain valves on the air tanks, see illustration A on page 2.

Air springs/bags should also be drained of air and left open to atmosphere as there could be air trapped between the distribution valve and the air bag, to empty the air springs/bags there are two methods, see below:

- Slacken the feed pipe fittings going into the air bags allowing all the air to drain to atmosphere, once drained you should remove the fitting allowing any potential further air to be relieved to atmosphere.
- Screw an open ended pipe to the pressure test point located on the fitting of the individual air bags allowing the air to drain to atmosphere, see illustration C on page 2, leave these pipes in place whilst working on the suspension,

***Ensure the feed pipe or the open ended pipe fitted to the test point is allowed to vent at all times when working on suspension related components.***

NB: If you are using individual column lifts (Somers, Hywema, Koni etc.) the truck should be raised as normal with the park brake off, once raised to a suitable height drain the air tanks and bags accordingly.

***Once the air is drained it should be checked by a colleague to make sure the system and air bags are completely drained of air.***



**EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN USING AXLE STANDS, REMEMBER AIR CAN DEplete FROM AIR BAGS OVER TIME WHICH WILL LEAD TO EXTRA WEIGHT BARING ON THE STANDS.**

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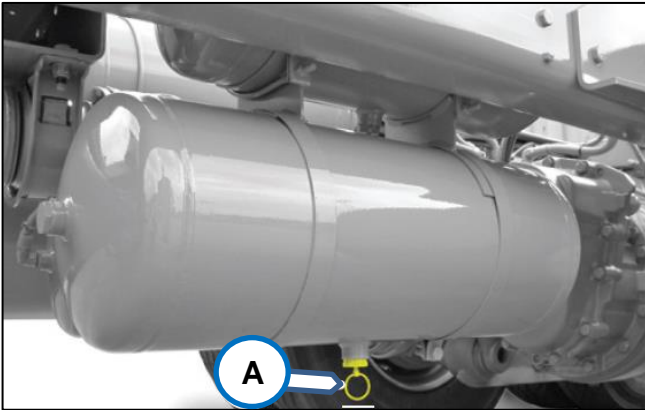
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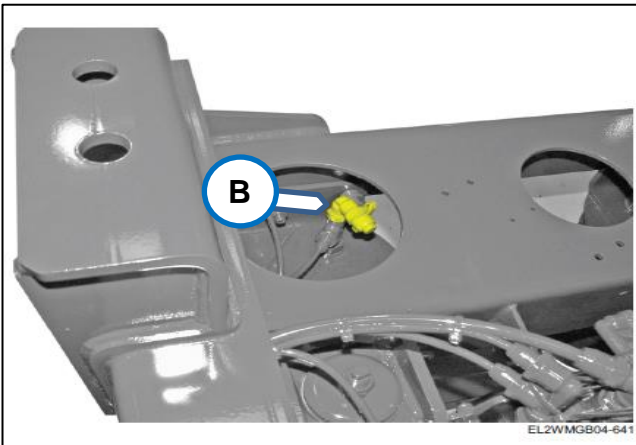
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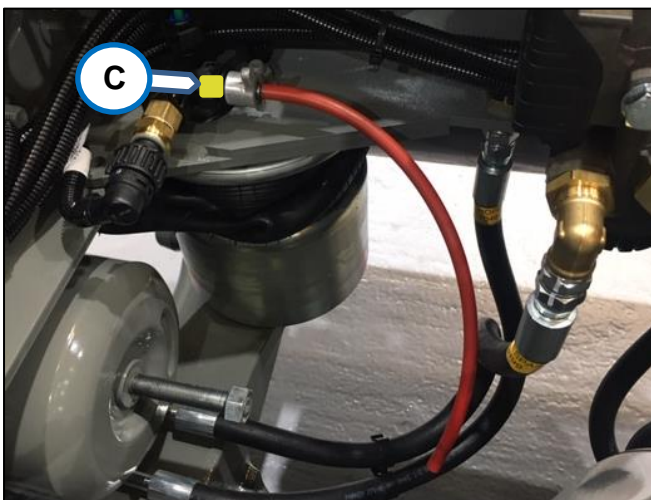
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A. Manual air tank drain valve, pull to drain air from each tank.



B. Example of air bag pressure test point.



C. Open ended pipe screwed onto an air bag pressure test point.