

SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

SAE J680

REV.
SEP88

Issued 1954-12
Revised 1988-09

Superseding J680 JUN82

Submitted for recognition as an American National Standard

LOCATION AND OPERATION OF INSTRUMENTS AND CONTROLS IN MOTOR TRUCK CABS

- 1. Scope**—The location and operation of instruments and controls herein described are recommended for adoption by manufacturers of trucks and truck-tractors in new or revised designs in order to avoid confusion when drivers shift from one truck to another, to promote safety and convenience, and to simplify design, production, and servicing. This recommended practice shall apply to all on-highway trucks and truck-tractors equipped with power brake systems and having a GVW rating of 26 000 lb or more. Of prime importance in this recommended practice is the basic premise that all controls requiring operation while the vehicle is in motion be located so that the driver can manipulate them with his right hand and keep his left hand on the steering wheel. Controls operated only when the vehicle is not in motion, such as the ignition key, starter switch, and engine shutdown, may be located at the left side of the instrument panel and be manipulated with the driver's left hand.
- 2. References**—There are no referenced publications specified herein.
- 3. Location of Instruments and Controls**—Instruments, indicators, and controls necessary for the safe operation of a motor vehicle are divided into six basic groups and assigned to specific areas for the purpose of this recommended practice. The six areas are numbered and their location is shown in Figure 1. The exact placement of the various gages within a specified area is left to the discretion of the truck builder. It is the intent of this recommended practice to define only the general areas for the location of instruments and controls. Figure 1 does not represent the instrument panel of any particular vehicle and may be modified to reflect variations such as console type panels. All instruments and controls must be located out of the head impact area and must be within reach of a properly restrained driver.

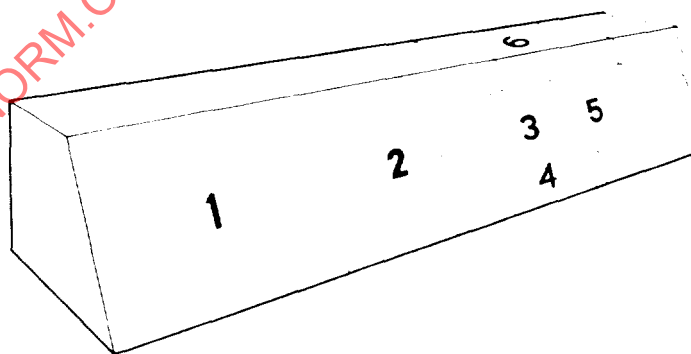


FIGURE 1—LOCATION OF INSTRUMENT AND CONTROL GROUPS

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- 3.1 Area 1**—The instruments assigned to area 1 are designated as engine gages. They include such basic items as the tachometer, oil pressure gage, water temperature gage and ammeter or voltmeter.
- 3.2 Area 2**—The instruments assigned to area 2 are defined as operational gages and relate to the operation of the vehicle. Included in this area are the speedometer, the reservoir air pressure gage, application air pressure gage, and fuel tank level gage.
- 3.3 Area 3**—Area 3 is generally to the right or below, or both, the operational gage area and provides space for lamp switches.
- 3.4 Area 4**—The windshield wiper controls are assigned to area 4 and are located below or to the right of area 3. When two separate controls are utilized, they must be placed in a horizontal line so that the position of the control indicates the position of the wiper to be operated. If the vehicle is equipped with a separate hand control for a windshield washer, it should also be located in area 4. On vehicles equipped with above-the-windshield wiper units, area 4 may be optionally located in the header area within the reach of the driver's right hand.
- 3.5 Area 5**—The trailer air supply valve and the parking brake control valves are located in area 5. The placement of the various controls included in this area is shown in Figure 2. If a vertical rather than a horizontal alignment is employed, the optional arrangement of area 5 controls is shown in Figure 3.

The trailer air supply valve is to be located at the left side or bottom of area 5. It should be a push-pull type of control valve with an octagonal-shaped knob having no sharp corners and colored red. This valve should be identified with a suitable escutcheon plate or lettering on the knob reading: TRAILER AIR SUPPLY. PULL TO EVACUATE; PUSH TO SUPPLY.

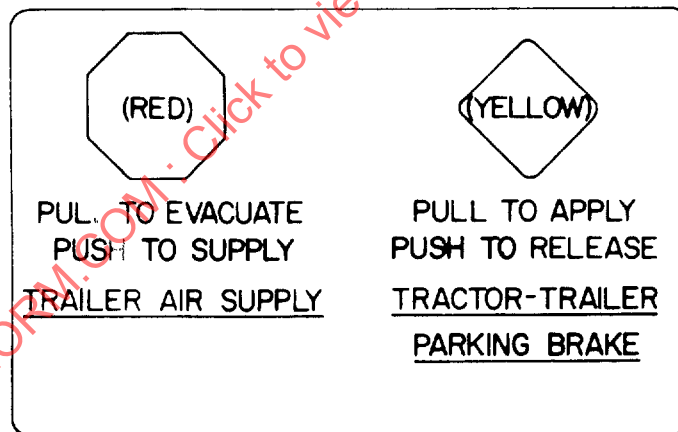


FIGURE 2—PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONTROLS IN EMERGENCY AND PARKING BRAKE CONTROL AREA

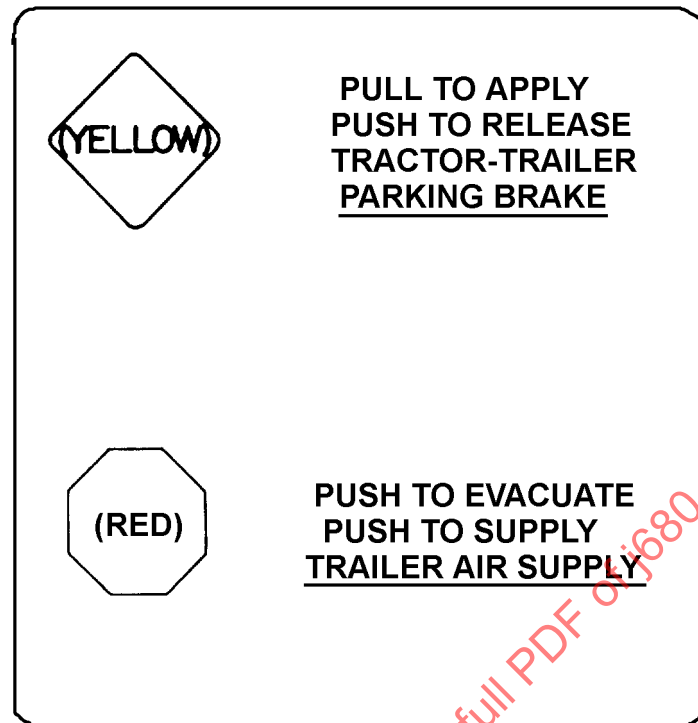


FIGURE 3—OPTIONAL PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONTROLS IN EMERGENCY AND PARKING BRAKE CONTROL AREA

The tractor-trailer parking brake control valve shall be of the push-pull type having a yellow-colored knob of a basically diamond shape configuration with no sharp corners. This control valve should be in area 5 to the right of, or above, the trailer air supply valve. Applying the "Tractor-Trailer Parking Brake" yellow knob will automatically evacuate the "Trailer Air Supply" line. The "Trailer Air Supply" red knob will be required to be pushed in for trailer air supply subsequent to vehicle operation. The escutcheon plate or knob for this control should read: PARKING BRAKES. PULL TO APPLY; PUSH TO RELEASE.

NOTE—Trucks conforming to FMVSS 121 not designed to tow trailers shall use the tractor only parking brake control valve with the diamond-shaped yellow-colored knob. The wording on the associated escutcheon plate or knob may be revised.

- 3.6 Area 6**—The controls to actuate the interaxle differential lockout and the front wheel brake limiting valve are assigned to area 6 which is at the top or upper face of the instrument panel and to the right of the driver. Either one or both of these controls may appear in a truck or tractor, depending on its drive configuration. Mode of operation for these valves should be toggle action (flip type). To distinguish between the two valves when both are utilized on the same vehicle, a formed guard should also be applied to the inner-axle differential lockout control for easy identification. An escutcheon plate is required for each valve with suitable wording to describe its function and direction of operation.
- 3.7 Visible Warning Indicator Lamps**—Indicator lamps are not assigned to a specific location on the instrument panel but they must be within the driver's view. Included in this category are the low oil pressure lamp, the high water temperature lamp, and the low air pressure lamp. The high-beam indicator lamp and the turn signal indicator lamps, when not incorporated in the turn signal switch, should also meet the requirements for this category. Warning lamps must have suitable descriptive wording to indicate their function.

4. **Secondary Instruments**—Instruments not specifically described in this recommended practice considered to be not essential for the safe operation of the vehicle may be placed at the option of the vehicle manufacturer. If space permits, instruments relating to the engine (such as the pyrometer, manifold pressure gage, or engine oil temperature) should be located in area 1. Likewise, those instruments relating specifically to the vehicle such as axle or transmission temperature gages should be placed in area 2. If this positioning is not feasible, optional locations are permitted by this recommended practice.
5. **Additional Cab Controls**—Controls other than those specifically assigned at areas 3, 4, 5, and 6 may be placed at the option of the vehicle manufacturer with the requirement that no other devices be placed in the restricted area assigned to emergency and parking brake controls.
6. **Turn Signals**—Turn signal controls should remain to the left of the steering wheel because of tradition and the ease of operation with the driver's hand on the steering wheel.
7. **Trailer Brake Hand Control**—The trailer brake hand control (when used) must be located in its traditional position adjacent to the steering wheel and must be capable of being operated with the driver's right hand. Physical attachment to the steering column or dash assembly is optional.
8. **Accessory Controls**—Controls for accessory items not used when the vehicle is operating on the highway, such as fifth wheel slide, fifth wheel lock, and trailer bottom dump actuation, must be treated in a special manner to prevent accidental activation. If these controls are located on the dash, they must be covered with a suitable guard so that accidental operation while the vehicle is moving is prevented. If these are not located on the dash, they must be placed in an area not easily accessible to the driver when the vehicle is in operation on the highway, such as on the floor or engine tunnel to the right of the driver.

PREPARED BY THE SAE TRUCK AND BUS AND CAB OCCUPANT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE