



Workshops Should Pay Attention to Brakes During Seasonal Wheel Changes

- Workshops should plan their wheel change campaign now to allow enough time for vital vehicle checks
- As a safety critical part, brakes should be a primary focus
- ZF Aftermarket provides support with a pocket card explaining common braking system defects

It's the time of year where automotive workshops are busy making appointments for customers wanting their summer tires swapped for winter parts. This appointment should be used as an opportunity for workshops to offer a vehicle check to assess the overall condition of the main safety systems and tap into further repair potential. As a leading supplier of safety critical parts and systems, ZF Aftermarket recommends that particular attention should be paid to the brakes. To help visually explain common braking defects and to prove the claim for further repair work, ZF Aftermarket has created a handy pocket card that servicers can use to explain brake damage to their customers.

To maximize business opportunities most workshops strategically organize the seasonal wheel change in the manner of a pit stop, with vehicles channeled through the workshop every quarter of an hour. Technicians typically work to perform as many wheel changes as possible in a day to shorten the waiting time for a customer. Despite this quick turnaround, it's vital that technicians use the opportunity to visually examine the area of the vehicle they are working on to detect any safety-relevant signs of wear & tear or defects.

When focusing on the braking system, the engineer can tell if the pads and discs are worn through cracked brake hoses or signs of overheating. Noticing these signs not only reassures the customer that his vehicle is safe, but also offers the potential for additional business. To support workshop personnel, ZF Aftermarket has developed a pocket card in which typical brake defects are explained using images. The following components should be checked:

- Brake pads: Pad thickness inside/outside
- Brake discs: Load-carrying pattern inside/outside (cracking, scoring, rust, edge formation, discoloration)
- Brake caliper: damage to guide pins (rubber sleeves) and brake piston sleeves, leaks, corrosion
- Parking brake: brake cable correctly engaged (function of handbrake lever)
- Brake hoses: leaks in the hoses (cracking) and screw connections

A brake check gives customers the certainty that they are safe on the road. That's why it's important for automotive workshops to invite not only vehicle owners with seasonal tires to the workshop, but also specifically those who drive all-season tires.



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