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AirScale Troubleshooting

When the indicator readings are unstable, determine which channel the problem is coming from.

If the problem is on the trailer, release the trailer brakes and dump all the air in the air bags. The air bags have rubber stops inside of them and will allow the trailer to drop 4-6 inches. If the scale system is stable after all of the air has been released, the problem is in the suspension. If the scale system continues to be unstable the problem is in the scale system.

Air leaks in the system will cause the indicator to slowly drop. After the scale has dropped several hundred pounds it will then climb back as the leveling makes the correction. The airflow through the leveling valve should be smooth. If a piece of rust or dirt gets into the valve the air flow will not be smooth but can be interrupted or pulsing.

Fast acting leveling valves are the best for scale systems. To determine if the leveling valve being used is fast or slow, disconnect the linkage between the axle and the valve. Moving the leveling valve actuator arm up 1/8" should cause air to flow immediately. If you have to move the arm 1/2" or more before the air starts to flow, the valve is slow acting. In a good working system it should take about 1-2 minutes to completely fill or empty a set of air bags.

If the problem is in the suspension there are several things to look for. Some trailers have a regulator valve that shuts off the air to the suspension if a bag breaks. This is a safety feature designed to allow enough air for the brakes to continue to operate. If this regulator is defective it can affect the scales. To test the regulator you can bypass it by running an airline around it temporarily. If the scales are stable after the bypass is added the regulator is defective and needs to be replaced.

Worn bushings in the in the trailing arms will cause non-repeatability, these usually need to be replaced every 1-2 years.

If the axles are attached to the to the trailing arms with "U" bolts rather than welded, look for broken "U" bolts, this will also cause non-repeatability.