



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

**Q.** *Will the Carlisle HydraStar function with the GM factory controller and the Ford Tow Command factory integrated brake controller?*

**A.** Both Ford and GM state that their controllers are designed to be used with trailers equipped with electric brakes. Carlisle recommends that aftermarket brake controllers be used instead of the factory controllers for trailers equipped with hydraulic brakes. This being said, newer production HydraStars, when used in conjunction with the Carlisle HBA-CAM module, will function with the Ford and GM controllers. Higher gain settings are required and we have had reports that these controllers do not provide as good of braking as some of the aftermarket controllers, nor are they as dependable when used with the electric/hydraulic actuators. Please refer to the list of compatible aftermarket controllers and model years where the HBA-CAM is required.

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**Q.** *How do I know which HydraStar unit to use with my trailer?*

**A.** A rule of thumb is to use the HBA-10 (1000psi) for drum brakes on single or tandem axle trailers. Use the HBA-12 (1200psi) for disc brakes on axles rated up to 8000lbs. Use the HBA-16 (1600psi) for all Dexter disc brakes and Al-ko Kober and Hayes disc or drum brakes. Always check with the brake manufacturer for pressure requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not exceed the brake manufacturers' recommended maximum operating pressure.

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**Q.** *How long has the HydraStar been on the market?*

**A.** The Carlisle HydraStar has been on the market for over 10 years. The current models are seventh generation, released in January of 2007.

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**Q.** *My Carlisle HydraStar trailer brake actuator does not work?*

**A.** First, confirm that the in-cab controller being used is approved on the Carlisle HydraStar Controllers list. Next, refer to the Troubleshooting Guide located in your service manual (also available on-line at [www.carlislebrake.com](http://www.carlislebrake.com)). If the unit still does not work (or fails any troubleshooting test), please contact the dealer, distributor, trailer OEM from which the product was purchased, or Carlisle customer service.



**Q.** *Is it acceptable to wire the Carlisle HydraStar differently from the electrical schematic published in the Service Manual?*

**A.** NO. Carlisle recommends connecting the HydraStar according to the electrical schematic located in your service manual. Failure to follow these guidelines will damage the HydraStar unit and void your warranty.

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**Q.** *Can I use other manufactures' breakaway systems with the Carlisle HydraStar?*

**A.** YES. The breakaway systems Carlisle Industrial Brake does not recommend are the Hoppy/TAP breakaway kit numbers 20099 and 20400, or any kit equipped with a built-in battery meter and LED test lights. These kits can result in the trailer brakes dragging or not releasing at all.

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**Q.** *My Carlisle HydraStar has a delay?*

**A.** Several causes of trailer brake delay are air in the hydraulic system, low power supply from the tow vehicle, or an incompatible brake controller in the cab of the vehicle. It is recommended to bleed the entire brake system according to the instructions located in the service manual. The Carlisle HydraStar requires a 12V / 25amp power supply on a minimum 12 gauge wire from the tow vehicle. Please refer to the service manual for the wiring schematic. Also, the brake controller in the cab of the vehicle must be approved on the Carlisle HydraStar Controllers list and should be adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Revised 11/28/2007