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SUBJECT: MINI MASTER CYLINDER SILICON ASSEMBLY FLUID

During manufacture of the Mini Master Cylinder, Bosch lubricates the piston bore with a silicone fluid to facilitate component installation and testing. This silicone material has the consistency of a light grease. It is inert and is compatible with brake fluid. This silicone material often migrates to the master cylinder reservoir. Since the silicone is lighter than the brake fluid, it floats on the surface of the brake fluid and is often mistaken as "foreign matter" or contamination. The silicone fluid appears as either a relatively thin film on top of the brake fluid or globules floating in the brake fluid. While the possibility of contamination should not be discounted, material floating in the reservoir is most likely the silicone assembly fluid used during manufacture.

When the brake fluid and silicone mixture in the reservoir is penetrated with the tip of a clean screwdriver, the silicone will tend to gather and adhere to the screwdriver tip. When the screwdriver is slowly removed the silicone will "string" away, similar to heavy oil.

True oil contamination in the brake fluid is most easily identified by examining the rubber components in the reservoir caps. When brought into contact with oil, rubber components intended for use in brake fluid will exhibit substantial swelling (often exceeding 125% of their original size).