



BLUE BIRD

SERVICE MEMORANDUM

NO. SM1406

MEMO TO: All Blue Bird Dealers

SUBJECT: Cold Weather Operation Recommendations

MODEL YEAR(S): All

MODEL(S) AFFECTED: All

Proper preparation and maintenance is a critical element in the performance of your bus during cold weather. Blue Bird recommends the following guidelines be followed to help prevent problems and ensure your fleet is prepared for operating in cold weather conditions.

Features on your bus may vary depending on regulations and specifications.

Diesel Fuel

- Replace fuel filter. Bi-annual change is recommended by most OEM specifications. Pre-winterization would be a good time to perform this operation
- Fuel/Water separator inspected for water accumulation daily, and drained as needed.
- Fuel/Water separator bowl heating element should be checked for proper operation every time the filter is changed.
- DEF filters are maintained per manufacturer's specifications
- Fill fuel tanks daily at end of route
- Inspection and maintenance of fuel supply tanks per your fuel supplier recommendations. Typical practice is obtaining a fuel sample twice a year
- Reference document, "***Diesel Fuel Properties and Performance***"

Electrical

- Battery condition is checked and maintained per manufacturers specifications
- Battery cables, terminals and connections are tight and corrosion free
- Charging system checked
- Reference document, "***Winter Battery Maintenance Info***"

Engine oil

- Verify the viscosity for all lubricating fluids are within range for ambient low temperature per OEM specifications
- Obtain oil analysis per OEM recommendation
- Reference document, "***Service Bulletin 3810340***"

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Coolant

- Cooling system freeze protection is adequate per manufacturers specifications
- Reference document, ***“Service Update SU1315”***

Transmission Fluid

- Verify the viscosity for all lubricating fluids are within range for ambient low temperature per OEM specifications

Power Steering Fluid

- Verify the viscosity for all lubricating fluids are within range for ambient low temperature per OEM specifications

Rear Differential Fluid

- Verify the viscosity for all lubricating fluids are within range for ambient low temperature per OEM specifications

Heaters

- Clean/replace all heater filters
- Inspect heater cores for cleanliness at filter change.
- Convection heat flutes are clean of debris
- Verify heater/defroster operation per OEM specifications
- Verify heater cut off valves are open
- Reference document ***“SM1102 – Heater Filter and Core Maintenance”***

Chassis

- Air system is drained routinely. This will vary depending on the humidity in your region
- Heated drain valves checked for proper operation, desiccant cartridges are good
- Tire pressure and tread type are adequate for conditions

Blue Bird offers and recommends the following cold climate features:

- Fuel fired auxiliary heater
- Engine block heater
- Winter front or radiator shutters
- Entrance step-tread heater
- Heated driver’s seat
- Heated mirrors

We have provided the following as additional reference documents:

Cummins, ***“Service Bulletin 3379009 – Operation of Diesel Engines in Cold Climates”***

Blue Bird, ***“Service Memorandum SM1403 – Cummins Diesel Fuel Requirements”***

Blue Bird, ***“Service Memorandum SM1307 – Cold Weather Starting Procedure”***

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