

DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 2006

**SUBJECT: SERVICE UPDATE S0610 NEW ENGINE
COOLANTS**

MODELS AFFECTED: ALL AMERICAN, VISION, EC-72

You will find enclosed a copy of Service Update S0610 regarding new engine coolants for the All American, Vision and EC 72 model buses. Service Update S0610 provides information on both standard and optional coolants.

Questions regarding Service Update S0610 should be directed to your Blue Bird Customer Service Representative.



New Coolants

MODELS AFFECTED: A3FE, A3RE, BBCV, BCCV

UPDATE

ISSUE

Blue Bird has implemented new engine coolants for all buses built upon Blue Bird built chassis. These include A3FE (All American Forward Engine), A3RE (All American Rear Engine), BBCV (Vision), and BCCV (EC-72).

This change results in one coolant (John Deere Cool-Gard 50/50 premix) being installed across all the above listed products as standard equipment. This coolant meets John Deere's specifications and requirements for extended-life coolant. It is to be considered standard-life coolant when installed in Caterpillar or Cummins engines.

APPLICATIONS

Standard Equipment Coolant

John Deere Cool-Gard 50/50 premix (green in color) is installed as standard equipment across all the above listed bus products powered by Caterpillar, Cummins, or John Deere engines. This coolant meets John Deere's specifications and requirements for extended-life coolant. It is to be considered standard-life coolant when installed in Caterpillar or Cummins engines.

Optional Extended Life Coolant

Two optional coolants are offered as extended-life coolants for the above listed bus models when not powered by John Deere engines.

Extended Life Coolant for Caterpillar Engines

Shell Rotella ELC 60/40 premix (red in color) is installed in the above listed bus products equipped with Caterpillar engines when purchased with an option for extended-life coolant.

Extended Life Coolant for Cummins Engines

Fleetguard ES Optimax 60/40 premix (red in color) is installed in the above listed bus products equipped with Cummins engines when purchased with an option for extended-life coolant.

Coolant Filter

On all of the above-listed bus models equipped with an optional coolant filter, the same Wix replacement filter element cartridge is used:

BLUE BIRD PART NUMBER: 0064641

WIX PART NUMBER: 24070

The coolant filter should be replaced every 6 months or 6,000 miles; whichever occurs first.

Coolant Decals

On all of the above-listed bus models, Blue Bird installs a decal stating:

- The type of coolant installed at the factory.
- The coolant manufacturer's part number for one gallon quantity, suitable for regular top-off and refill.
- The coolant manufacturer's part number for one gallon quantity of the concentrate version of the installed coolant, suitable for formulating stronger glycol mixture ratio.

Blue Bird also installs a second decal containing radiator warnings. Both decals are mounted near the coolant fill neck.

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S E R V I C E U P D A T E



COOLANT MAINTENANCE

Blue Bird advises strictly abiding by the following policy for all coolant maintenance for the life of the vehicle.

Never Mix Coolant Types

Routine coolant addition (top-off) must match the installed coolant type and brand. Do not mix coolants of different colors, types, or brands in the same engine.

Strictly Follow The Engine Manufacturer's Specifications

Each engine manufacturer publishes its own specific requirements for testing and maintaining coolant in their respective engines. Blue Bird recommends strictly abiding by the engine manufacturer's testing and maintenance schedules and draining, flushing, refilling procedures to maintain compliance with the engine warranty requirements. Blue Bird recommends that you maintain accurate vehicle-specific service records of all coolant system maintenance procedures performed.

For Caterpillar or Cummins engines equipped with John Deere Cool-Gard coolant, follow the engine manufacturer's maintenance schedules for standard-life coolant, not for extended-life coolant.

For Caterpillar engines using Shell Rotella ELC extended life coolant, perform testing at a qualified coolant laboratory per the Caterpillar Operation and Maintenance Manual. Label sample as Extended-Life coolant.

For Cummins engines using Fleetguard ES Optimax extended-life coolant, send coolant samples to Fleetguard for Monitor C testing, as specified in the Cummins Operator's Manual. Label sample as Extended-Life coolant.

For Caterpillar, Cummins, or John Deere engines using John Deere Cool-Gard coolant, send coolant samples to a John Deere lab for Cool Scan testing; or test manually using a John Deere Three-Way test strip, supplied in John Deere 3-Way Heavy Duty Coolant Test Kit TY6175.

Always Mix Concentrate With Premix Coolant, Not Water

If concentrated coolant is added in order to raise the glycol ratio, use only the concentrate version of the same premix coolant type and brand as installed. Do not mix the concentrate with water. Instead, mix the concentrate with the premix version of the same coolant.

Only Add Tap Water In Emergency Situations

A regularly-scheduled bus inspection and maintenance program should be followed to prevent coolant losses due to damaged or worn hoses, loose clamps, etc.

If coolant is lost while the bus is in use, and roadside emergency measures are called for, replenish the coolant with the same premix type and brand if possible. If the proper coolant is not available, and water must be used, use only de-ionized water if possible. Ordinary tap water should only be used if proper coolant or de-ionized water are not available.

Whenever tap water alone has been added, the bus should be taken to a service facility and the entire cooling system should be completely drained, flushed, and refilled with premix coolant.



COOLANTS

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S E R V I C E U P D A T E

John Deere Cool-Gard

Green in color. Standard equipment coolant in all A3FE, A3RE, BBCV, BCCV.
Qualifies as extended-life coolant in John Deere engines.
Considered standard-life coolant in Caterpillar and Cummins engines.
Concentrate version may be mixed with the pre-mix version to lower freezing point.

50/50 Premix	BLUE BIRD NUMBER	JOHN DEERE NUMBER
1 Gallon Container	0109179	TY25081
2 1/2 Gallon Container		TY16036
55 Gallon Drum		TY16037
330 Gallon Tote		TY24504
Concentrate		
1 Gallon Container		TY16034

Shell Rotella ELC

Red in color. Optional coolant in A3FE, A3RE, BBCV, BCCV with Caterpillar engines.
Qualifies as extended-life coolant in Caterpillar engines (Caterpillar Licensed EC-1 Coolant).
Blue Bird installs 60/40 premix, which is not available in one gallon containers, but is available in larger containers (listed).
The 50/50 premix may be mixed with the concentrate version per Shell's instructions to achieve 60/40 ratio.
Concentrate version may be mixed with the pre-mix version to lower freezing point.

50/50 Premix	BLUE BIRD NUMBER	SHELL NUMBER
1 Gallon Container		9404206021
Case of six 1 Gallon Containers	0109180	
60/40 Premix		
55 Gallon Drum	0109075	9406500065
Concentrate		
1 Gallon Container	0109608	9404106021

Fleetguard ES Optimax

Red in color. Optional coolant in A3FE, A3RE, BBCV, BCCV with Cummins engines.
Qualifies as extended-life coolant in Cummins engines.
Blue Bird installs 60/40 premix, which is not available in one gallon containers, but is available in larger containers (listed).
The 50/50 premix may be mixed with the concentrate version per Fleetguard's instructions to achieve 60/40 ratio.
Concentrate version may be mixed with the pre-mix version to lower freezing point.

50/50 Premix	BLUE BIRD NUMBER	FLEETGUARD NUMBER
1 Gallon Container	0109178	CC2785/2785X
60/40 Premix		
55 Gallon Drum		CC2770/2770X
275 Gallon Tote		CC2790/2790X
Concentrate		
1 Gallon Container	0109552	CC2780/2780X