



General Guidelines for Idling of Buses, Winter Starting and Fuel Mixture

The following guidelines should be followed at all Customer Service Centers unless State regulations require less idle time. Variations from these guidelines should be discussed and approved by the Vice President of Fleet Operations. The purpose is to be as friendly to the environment as possible and to maintain fuel efficiency and expense at an optimum level, while continuing to provide the best service possible to our customers.

1. Engine idle time should be limited to no more than 5 minutes or the time it takes to check the lights and defrost the windshield during the "DRIVER PRE-TRIP". This includes drop-off and pick-ups at schools, athletic events, field trips and charters. This also applies to post trip, turbo charger cool down.
2. On those days when the temperature falls below 23 degrees Fahrenheit a bus may idle for up to 5 minutes prior to the dispatch of a route, if it is not prohibited by state or local regulations. This should coincide with the "DRIVERS PRE-TRIP" and allow for Maintenance Personnel to assist the drivers with starting so that the vehicles are in proper running order before being dispatched for a route. It is not environmentally friendly to have a fleet of buses idling in the same location for a long period of time. In locations that experience sub freezing temperatures, the General Manager and Maintenance Facility Lead / Lead Tech should develop a cold weather start up plan that allows for the efficient start up of buses, with minimal idle time, that results in on-time service to our customers.
3. To ensure "Safety First", at no time shall a bus be left unattended by the driver while it is idling during normal operating conditions. In a cold weather start up situation, drivers need not be present as long as Maintenance Personnel are in the parking area and are monitoring the fleet while the buses are idling. At no time shall a bus be left idling while it is being fueled.
4. At Customer Service Centers where the temperature falls below freezing on a regular basis, "winterized" fuel is to be used during the winter months in order to prevent waxing that will clog the fuel system. The fuel is to be mixed at a 90-10 ratio ULS diesel fuel. In extremely cold climates it may require an 80-20 mixture. Check with your fuel supplier and Facility and Fleet Service Coordinator if there is a question about fuel mixture. At those locations where the School District purchases the fuel, it shall be the Maintenance Facility Leads / Lead Techs responsibility to communicate with the District and fuel supplier to ensure the proper fuel mixture is supplied.
5. At no time shall a starting-aid such as ether be used to assist with engine starting unless the bus has been equipped by the original manufacturer with such a device. Because aerosol starting aids pose an explosion or fire danger and have been known to cause engine damage the purchase and use is of these products is strictly prohibited.

