

Product Bulletin



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VST Balance Nozzle Clip Removal and CARB Advisory 418

06.21.10

In the past several weeks and months, Vapor Systems Technologies, Inc. (VST) has surveyed numerous GDF (Gasoline Dispensing Facility) sites throughout the State of California and found that many sites have not been conducting weekly inspections of equipment as outlined in the applicable Executive Orders. VST has catalogued a huge and unanticipated number of drive-off events throughout the state (thousands per month). Furthermore, it has also been reported that a number of illegal and unauthorized repairs are being made to our equipment.

In the event that proper maintenance, repairs, replacements, and inspections are not conducted, a nozzle failure may occur and result in a hazardous condition. All gasoline nozzles, or any mechanical device for that matter, will eventually fail for some reason. Frequent inspections are critical to assure maximum safety. Failed or damaged nozzles can unexpectedly cause gasoline spray. As a result of these issues, VST has coordinated an effort with the California State Fire Marshal and CARB to generate Advisory 418. The advisory, issued May 28, 2010, requires the daily inspection of the equipment to help minimize any risks.

Due to the uncertainty that inspections will occur in a timely and routine manner, VST has concluded Advisory 418 does not go far enough. In order to protect the public, the removal of all nozzle hold-open clips is required until an alternate solution is adopted. Effective immediately, all future production of VST balance nozzles, both new and rebuilt, will be shipped without hold-open clips. In addition, we are dispatching crews to our distribution locations to remove the hold-open clip from all existing inventory. Furthermore and most importantly, we have dispatched a number of contractors and VST personnel throughout the state to begin the removal of all nozzle hold-open clips currently in service.

Enclosed is a copy of authorization from the California State Fire Marshal and CARB that underscores our activity. In addition, VST whole heartedly supports CARB Advisory 418, and all stations should adhere to this policy as it is the law. Protection of the public is paramount. We ask for your assistance and support with this decision. Over the next number of days and weeks we will purge all hold open clips from the state and hope to complete these activities with a minimum of disturbance to your respective businesses.

Sincerely,

Glenn K. Walker

Glenn K. Walker
President
Vapor Systems Technologies, Inc.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES



Air Resources Board
Mary D. Nichols
Chairman

State of California

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger



Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection
Del Walters
Director

June 18, 2010

Dear Gasoline Station Owner:

This letter is to inform you about the solution to a potential problem with your Vapor System Technologies (VST) nozzles. In rare instances, VST nozzles can unexpectedly cause gasoline to spray upon activation of the dispenser and before the nozzle is put into the vehicle fuel tank. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) have confirmed this situation.

VST, with concurrence from ARB and OSFM, has identified a short-term fix that can be executed immediately to prevent gasoline spray. The fix involves removal of the nozzle hold-open clip (see picture on reverse). Representatives from VST are visiting each station to implement this fix. We request that you cooperate with them and allow them access to your VST nozzles so they can remove the hold open clip. Upon removal of the hold-open clip, your VST nozzles can continue to be used freely.

Health and Safety Code section 41960.6(a) through (c) requires nozzles to be equipped with a hold open latch, however please note that ARB, OSFM, and local fire districts are suspending enforcement of this requirement. The hold-open latch was first required in 1992 to limit consumer exposure to benzene-laden gasoline fumes during fueling. Currently the enhanced vapor recovery (EVR) Phase II nozzles, required since April 2009, eliminate most of these fumes. Subdivision (d) permits local fire authorities to set fire safety provisions for their area of responsibility. The OSFM has asked the local fire authority for their cooperation in this matter. Removal of the hold-open clip from VST nozzles is necessary to reduce fire risk from potential gasoline sprays and protect public health.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions at any time, please call ARB at (916) 327-0900 or OSFM at (916) 445-8415.

Sincerely,

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer
Air Resources Board

Tonya L. Hoover
Acting California State Fire Marshal
California Department of Forest and Fire Protection

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

VST Nozzle

Figure 1: VST Balance Nozzle with Hold Open Latch Installed



Figure 2: VST Balance Nozzle with Hold Open Latch Removed





Number 418

May 28, 2010

VST Nozzles

This advisory concerns all VST nozzles operating in California. In rare instances, a damaged VST nozzle can unexpectedly cause gasoline spray, upon activating the dispenser, prior to the nozzle being inserted into the vehicle fuel tank. The Air Resources Board (ARB) advises that all VST nozzles be **checked daily** by following the instructions included in **Form 1** of this Advisory. See Figure 1 for a diagram of the nozzle. Any nozzle which fails Check A or Check B, of **Form 1**, should be **removed immediately from service**.

As a reminder, for any hanging hardware components involved in a drive-off or subjected to customer abuse it is required that each individual component of the hanging hardware be **visually inspected and functionally tested** before the components can again be used for dispensing fuel. Prior to placing the component/s into service, use the appropriate equipment and follow the instructions specified in the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Manual (IOM) Sections 10, 11 and 12 (as it relates to the latest revision of Executive Orders (EO) VR-203, VR-204 and VR-205) or IOM Sections 8, 9 and 10 (as it relates to the latest revision of EO VR-209).

Questions and Further Information:

For questions regarding this advisory call at (916) 327-0900. For copies of the Executive Orders visit our website at:

1. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/vapor/eos/eo-vr203/eo-vr203.htm>
2. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/vapor/eos/eo-vr204/eo-vr204.htm>
3. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/vapor/eos/eo-vr205/eo-vr205.htm>
4. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/vapor/eos/eo-vr209/eo-vr209.htm>

FORM 1
Daily Inspection and Function Checklist – for VST Nozzles

Fueling Point #	Check A		Check B	
	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail

Fueling Point #	Check A		Check B	
	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail

Inspected by: _____ Date: _____ Inspected by: _____ Date: _____

- Check A**
- 1) Make sure dispenser is de-activated (**do not turn on**).
 - 2) Lift the nozzle from the dispenser cradle without touching the lever.
 - 3) Make sure hold open clip is disengaged.
 - 4) Point nozzle spout into a gasoline compatible container. Do not compress vapor collection sleeve (VCS).
 - 5) Pull lever to make sure there is no spring tension.
If the lever has **no** spring tension (dead lever), the nozzle passes.
If the lever has spring tension (live lever i.e. same as dispensing fuel), the nozzle fails.
 - 6) If Check A fails, tag out this Fueling Point and have the nozzle immediately serviced or replaced. Reference nozzle installation or nozzle repair instructions in the ARB Approved Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Manuals.
 - 7) If Check A passes, proceed to Check B.
- Check B**
- 1) While still pointing the nozzle spout in the gasoline compatible container and with the dispenser de-activated, compress the vapor collection sleeve (VCS) by pressing on the face seal, and confirm the lever has spring tension (live lever).
 - 2) Then release the VCS and confirm the lever has **no** spring tension (dead lever).
 - 3) If lever goes live (when the VCS is compressed), and goes dead (when the VCS is released), then the nozzle passes.
 - 4) If lever stays dead (when the VCS is compressed) **or** stays live (when the VCS is released), then the nozzle fails.
 - 5) If check B fails, tag out this Fueling point and have the nozzle immediately serviced or replaced. Reference nozzle installation or nozzle repair instructions in the ARB Approved Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Manuals.

Figure 1
VST Nozzle

