

Policies regarding fuel spillage

Information compiled April 11, 2006

The Question: A transit agency is experiencing a major problem with fuel spillage from new, Gillig low floor buses. The Chassis numbers are 76001 through 76005. The agency is using a standard diesel nozzle like you would find in any gas station. We have to put the nozzle in sideways to get it to fit and then the bus overfills and spills at the fuel island. Also, when the buses are on route, they will leak out the overflow for the first hour or two until the tank empties out a little. We have considered not filling the tanks so full, but with multiple people fueling the buses we are not consistent and have fuel spills anyway.

Do you have a similar problem? Have you come up with a solution (an attachment or different method) to eliminate spillage?

Ben Franklin Transit says... We use the Emco Weaton Fuel nozzle that prevents fuel spillage. We also set our fuel levels to 80% which allows for fuel expansion when it gets warm. Hope this helps. Any questions give me a call!

Community Transit says... We have installed a "Dry-Lock" system on all of our coaches and nozzles. It prevents spilling at fueling and on the road. For more specifics, please call Ken Weimer (Shop Manager) at 425-438-6162.

Island Transit says... Not yet. I just can't wait.

Kitsap Transit says... Just learned from my Maintenance Manager that we have experienced the same problems of fuel leaking out the vent tube on the low-floor Gilligs. This occurred when we first received them, but we switched to a longer fuel nozzle, and the problem went away. We learned just recently, that the supplier of the longer nozzle no longer had them, so we switched back to the shorter nozzle and started having problems again. We have since tracked down a few of the longer nozzles and the problem has gone away again.

I have my manager looking at routing a vent hose from the vent up 6 to 8 inches above the height of the vent to see if that will help. Beyond that, it sounds like an overfill problem or tank design issue. We also have fairly new standard floor Gilligs, but do not have a problem with them.

Link Transit says... Link has not experienced this problem. We have 2004 and 2005 30 foot low-floors with saddle tanks.

Spokane Transit says... We have not experienced this problem. We use the Emco/Wheaton fueling nozzle system. It locks onto the fuel tank neck and is equipped with a pressure gauge inside the tank that will stop it from overfilling. It is set at 2 psi. We do not have spillage during fueling or out on the road. The system works pretty well for us.

Whatcom Transit says... The coaches, and pumps could be retro fit with the Emco Wheaton Posi-lock fuel nozzle, and poppet valve assembly. This is an aircraft type nozzle that twists onto a special fill neck, and allows you to fuel the bus without spillage. This will make a big difference in fuel island cleanliness.

Many properties buy this equipment installed at the factory. Gillig is aware of this option and ought to be able to recommend a retrofit kit.