



**July 31, 2012**

**SERVICE MEMORANDUM**

**NO: SM1205**

**MEMO TO: All Blue Bird Dealers and Customers**

**SUBJECT: Air Intake System Maintenance Reminder**

**MODEL YEAR: 2003-Current**

**MODELS AFFECTED: ALL BLUE BIRD BUSES WITH DIESEL ENGINES**

**Notice: This Service Memorandum supersedes SM1003.**

Maintenance and inspection of the air intake tract is critical not only for proper performance, but also for engine life and warranty compliance. Any leak along the various tubing and clamped joints of the intake tract, is an opportunity for the engine to ingest abrasive dirt or contamination into the turbo, valves and combustion chambers under pressure.

***Never run the engine with the air cleaner or its filter element removed.***

Use only original replacement parts to avoid poor fit and consequent air leakage.

Visually inspect the intake tract whenever working in the engine compartment and follow the scheduled maintenance guidelines in this publication as a minimum.

Page 2 is a list of maintenance procedures which should be performed on a regular basis to properly maintain your Blue Bird bus. Page 3 is a reference drawing for clarification of clamp torques and locations. *NOTE: Your system may vary from the drawing depending on year, model, engine and option selection.*

**These are recommended minimum service intervals which assume normal operating conditions.** More frequent service intervals should be considered if the vehicle is operated in extreme conditions such as high humidity and/or dusty environments.

Time intervals are shown in terms of months or mileage. The correct interval will be whichever occurs first.



## **Blue Bird Air Intake System Maintenance**

### **Every Day**

- **Inspect Intake Air Restriction indicator. Replace filter element if indicator is red.**
- **Inspect Intake Tract Duct and Elbow visually for proper fit and sealing, cuts, abrasions, signs of dirt contamination.**

### **Every 3 months or 5,000 miles**

- Remove and Inspect Air Cleaner Filter Element for proper seating and secure lid. Replace if soiled, wet, torn or otherwise damaged. Ensure proper installation and seal. Clean any debris from filter housing.
- Inspect Intake Tract Tubing, Charge Air Tubing and all fasteners for signs of contaminate infiltration, loose clamps, wear spots and holes in piping.
- Inspect Air Compressor Inlet Lines for tightness, wear or other damage.
- Inspect Intake Tract Support Bracket (*if applicable*) – Repair damaged parts immediately.
- Inspect and tighten “Compressed Air” tract hose clamps – Tighten to 5-5.8 ft lbs. Labeled “A”
  - Tubing from the turbo exit through the CAC (Charge Air Cooler) to the engine intake.
- Inspect and tighten “Fresh Air” tract hose clamps-Tighten to 6.5-7.5 ft lbs. Labeled “B”
  - Tubing from the Air Cleaner housing to the turbo inlet



BLUE BIRD

## Every 12 months or 12,000 miles

- Replace air filter element with OEM replacement air filter.
- Test Air Restriction indicator with a calibrated vacuum gauge and pump.

*The drawing below is a reference. Your system may vary depending on year, model, engine and option selection.*

