

REAL Torque

January 2020

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

Overfilling AdBlue Reservoirs

Since the inception of engine SCR systems, commonly known to most as AdBlue, several system issues have been well publicised, most of which have been resolved by various truck manufacturers. However, there is one we have come across that truck operators can cause but which can easily be rectified with the following information.



Be aware of overfilling AdBlue tanks

Recently we have found on some trucks that constantly overfilling the AdBlue tank above the marked full level on the level indicator tube allows the AdBlue liquid to enter the tank breather tube. The AdBlue then crystallises because it has come in contact with the atmosphere. This results in the blockage of the breather tube in the tank which prevents the AdBlue pump from being able to draw the liquid from the tank and in turn the associated lines and nozzles can become blocked. The truck's electronics recognise this issue and the engine will derate and eventually not start. To help stop this from happening, only fill the AdBlue tank to the maximum level indicated on the sight tube.



These images show crystallised AdBlue that has formed after coming in contact with the atmosphere. You can see how this could cause blockages.



Many Japanese trucks have level indicator tubes. European and American trucks generally do not have these and best practice around filling these trucks is to only fill until the pumping nozzle shuts off automatically, or to visually check and ensure the tank is left with an air gap below the filler neck, otherwise the same issues from overfilling could occur.

Another good reason to not overfill the tank is that AdBlue is made up of a high percentage of water. If it were to freeze it can expand in volume by as much as 7% which may result in the tank splitting or damaging other components.



Tips and Tricks

- ▶ AdBlue systems require clean, uncontaminated product to function correctly.
- ▶ AdBlue should always be stored in clean and air tight containers.
- ▶ Be very careful to not put AdBlue into a Diesel tank or Diesel into an AdBlue tank, both products can cause serious issues if mixed up.
- ▶ Try to keep AdBlue tanks topped up as much as possible to avoid condensation build up.
- ▶ Try not to leave tank levels low when the truck is unused for a long period of time.
- ▶ Do not store AdBlue in direct sunlight.
- ▶ AdBlue deteriorates over time and has a 2-year lifespan – do not use after its expiry date.

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