



Prepare for the next Polar Vortex with a DEF Blanket



Truck Care Tips

When the weather man predicts a frigid Polar Vortex is heading for the Midwest, truck drivers get their fuel tanks ready by adding winter treatments to their diesel tanks. However, they sometimes forget about the cold weather impact on their Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF).

During the month-long Polar Vortex of last winter, many drivers were left stranded because of frozen DEF tanks. According to Assistant Service Manager Rick Musselman, there was a long line up of frozen up trucks on the streets around Peterbilt of Des Moines waiting for help. Many had to wait more than a week to get into the shop to have their DEF tank thawed out.

“Some DF tanks were so frozen, technicians had to remove them from their brackets into the wash bay for a hot water spray to thaw out the frozen DEF fluid,” Musselman said.

Also, following a subzero weekend, a truck’s DEF may be frozen by Monday morning. The truck starts okay, but after a few minutes of driving down the road the driver sees a check engine light, announcing a DEF issue. Eventually the engine is derated and the truck limps off the road.

“In addition to a delayed shipment, motel bill and tow truck charge, the truck owner could also find damage occurred to expensive exhaust system components, due to the freeze up,” Musselman said. “While DEF tanks have heated lines, the fluid still needs heated engine coolant flowing through to keep it from freezing during frigid weather. A DEF tank blanket can help to reduce freeze up problems in cold weather.”

Peterbilt Service Managers suggest that if you think your DEF tank may be frozen, to start the engine and let it idle extra long before hitting the road, so that the DEF tank heats up. A DEF tank blanket will help the fluid inside to warm up faster and stay warmer during travel.

Additives are not allowed in DEF tanks. If sensors spot foreign chemicals, the engine will be derated.

A TRP DEF Tank Blanket is the first line of protection against extreme cold conditions and can help prevent freeze ups.



TRP insulated DEF tank blankets offer these features:

- full heat-sealing prevents water absorption into the insulation batting
- triple-layer material with -40°F cold-crack rating
- custom fit original equipment Peterbilt DEF Tanks
- in small, medium, large and medium Aero (L & R)
- installs in minutes, access to DEF fill cap
- helps maximize vehicle uptime and avoid repairs and delays



DEF Tank Blankets come in several sizes to fit specific models. Contact the Peterbilt Parts Counter Staff to order the size you need.



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