



California State Fire Marshal Information Bulletin

Issued: August 25, 2010

STATEWIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT ALERT

Update on the Vapor Systems Technologies (VST) Nozzles Operating in California

This Information Bulletin is to provide an update on the steps that have been taken to remedy a health and safety hazard regarding the VST nozzles operating in California.

Some VST nozzles have allowed gasoline to be unexpectedly sprayed before the nozzle is inserted into the vehicle.

To ensure public safety and allow approximately 3,000 gasoline stations equipped with VST nozzles to continue operation, in a letter dated August 23, 2010, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) mandated the removal of the hold-open latch from all VST nozzles by October 15, 2010. In a letter dated August 24, 2010, the OSFM has requested the assistance of California Fire Chiefs/Fire Marshals in the enforcement of this mandated action.

For further detailed information, please see the attached copies of the letters sent to Gasoline Station Owners/Operators and Fire Chiefs/Fire Marshals.

If you have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact the Vapor Recovery Program Coordinator, James Parsegian at james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov or (916) 445-8415.

For information regarding the California State Fire Marshal Office please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
Office of the State Fire Marshal

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 445-8200
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



August 23, 2010

Dear Gas Station Owners/Operators:

This letter is to inform you of a potential fire hazard involving Vapor System Technologies (VST) nozzles (Model VST-EVR-NB) installed in your station(s). Some VST nozzles have allowed gasoline to be unexpectedly sprayed before the nozzle is inserted into the vehicle. These events occur when the hold-open latch does not disengage following the prior refueling. To date thirteen (13) spraying incidents have been reported and confirmed by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). Seven (7) of these incidents involved consumers being sprayed with gasoline.

Spraying of gasoline is a highly dangerous fire and safety hazard. Therefore the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and ARB have suspended enforcement of Health and Safety Code Section 41960.6 which requires nozzles to be equipped with a hold-open latch. This action only applies to VST brand nozzles referenced above. Furthermore, as authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 41956.1(b), the OSFM has determined that the VST nozzle, as currently certified with the hold-open latch, has created a hazard to the public health and welfare. The OSFM and ARB have revised their certification of the VST nozzle to require the hold-open latch be removed from the nozzle.

To ensure public safety and allow the approximately 3,000 gasoline stations equipped with VST nozzles **to continue their operations**, the OSFM hereby **mandates that the hold-open latch be removed from all VST nozzles**. Gasoline stations with VST nozzles must have the hold-open latch removed in order to remain in operation. It should be noted that the removal of the hold-open latch **does not exempt** gasoline station owners/operators from complying with the **ARB mandated inspection requirements**.

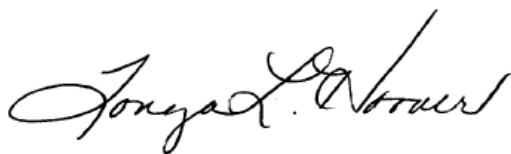
As a station owner or operator, you are obligated to remove the hold-open latches at your station by **October 15, 2010** in order to remain in operation. The removal must be performed by competent personnel, such as certified service station contractors. You may also wish to contact VST to ascertain their willingness to perform the latch removal.

The ARB is currently working with VST and other manufacturers on replacement nozzles. When these replacement nozzles become available, they will provide the station owners the option of replacing their current VST nozzles with a nozzle that provides a hold-open latch for their customers.

Please complete and sign the attached form demonstrating compliance with the mandate and return it to ARB at the address shown on the form. Failure to remove the hold-open latches by October 15, 2010 will subject gasoline stations to enforcement actions by the local fire authority.

We also **strongly recommend** that you post the attached sign or a similar warning on the dispensers to advise the public not to use objects to engage the nozzle trigger for fueling.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact James Parsegian, Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering Division at (916) 445-8415 or james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov.



JONATHAN L. NOVAK
Acting State Fire Marshal

Attachments



PROOF OF COMPLIANCE

To mitigate a potential fire hazard with the Vapor Systems Technologies (VST) gasoline nozzles model VST-EVR-NB, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has mandated the removal of the hold-open latch. Failure to remove the hold-open latches by October 15, 2010 will subject gasoline stations to enforcement actions by the local fire authority.

Hold Open Latches Removed

Latch Removed by VST Representative

Latch Removed by Service Contractor

Hold Open Latches Not Removed

Owner/Operator Refused

Person in Authority Not Available

Other _____

Station Name

Station Address (Street) City and Zip Code

Signature and Printed Name of Station Owner/Operator/Representative Date

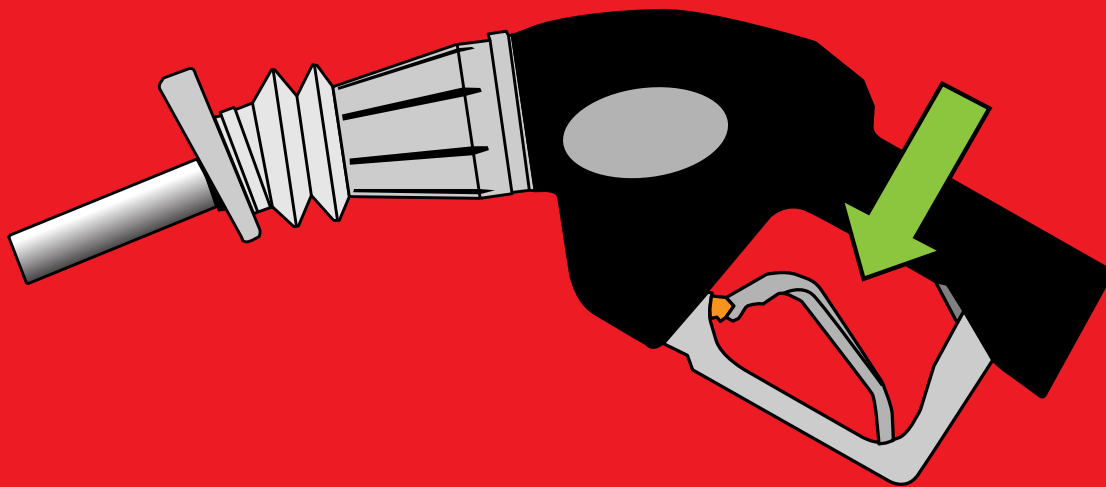
Signature, Printed Name, and Business Affiliation of Latch Removal Technician/Contractor Date

**Original Signed Form Must Be Returned to
Air Resources Board
Monitoring and Laboratory Division
P. O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812-2815
ATTN: VST Hold-Open Latch Removal**

ATTENTION

CUSTOMER SAFETY ADVISORY

The State Fire Marshal has required removal of hold-open latches on these nozzles.



**Do not use objects to keep nozzles open
- it creates serious risk of injury or fire.**



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING - VAPOR RECOVERY PROGRAM



VAPOR RECOVERY CERTIFICATION

VAPOR RECOVERY DISPENSING NOZZLE

CERTIFICATION No: 005-0044:0010

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MANUFACTURER: VAPOR SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES, INC., 650 Pleasant Valley Drive, Springboro, OH 45066
Contact: Glenn Walker (937) 704-9333 Fax (937) 704-9443

DESIGN: Model VST-EVR-NBcc vapor recovery type hose nozzle valve for flammable fluids (automatic type **without** hold-open latch device). Where "cc" is the color code of the scuff guard. This valve is an automatic self-closing type hose-nozzle valve with a female coaxial type connection and vapor return capabilities intended for use with flammable liquid dispensing devices arranged for vapor recovery. They are equipped with the usual automatic mechanism designed to shut off the flow of liquid when the automobile tank is full. They include a shear section in the spout to permit breakaway should the valve be subjected to excessive bending load, **may not** have a spring-loaded latch which may be set to hold the valve open, and are provided with a vapor return passage designed for collection of saturated vapors by means of a "tight seal" with the automobile fill opening.

APPLICATION: The nozzle valves shall be used only with listee's VST-EVR compliant products. (VST's EVR hoses and safety breakaways). The inner liquid line is rated 50 psi maximum and the outer vapor return line is rated 1/2 psi maximum.

INSTALLATION: The nozzle valve installation is done in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions and NFPA 30A. The units are intended to be installed using California State Fire Marshal Certified and compatible Vapor Recovery System Component Parts: Such as hoses and safety breakaway valves. The installer is responsible for ensuring compatibility of component parts and current California State Fire Marshal Certification.

MARKING: The manufacturer's name and Part Number are provided on an aluminum nameplate riveted to the lever guard. Additionally, each nozzle valve will ship from the factory with an adhesive-backed label stating compatibility with approved VST products and UL Standard.

CERTIFICATION: Certified for use with VST Phase II EVR systems.

NOTE: The certification for the VST nozzle has been revised showing the hold-open latch device removed.

This certification is made pursuant to the authority granted to the California State Fire Marshal as contained in Sections 41955 through 41960 inclusive, California Health and Safety Code. The certification is based upon independent tests or other technical data submitted by the applicant. CSFM staff has reviewed the test results and/or data but does not make an independent verification of any claims. This certification is not an endorsement or recommendation for the use of the item(s) specified. This certification should not be used to verify correct operational requirements or installation criteria.

Date Issued: **August 23, 2010**

Authorized By: **James Parsegian**
Program Coordinator
Vapor Recovery Program



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Office of the State Fire Marshal

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August 24, 2010

Dear Fire Chiefs/Fire Marshals:

This letter is to inform you of a potential fire hazard involving Vapor System Technologies (VST) nozzles (Model VST-EVR-NB) installed in gas stations within your jurisdiction. Some VST nozzles have allowed gasoline to be unexpectedly sprayed before the nozzle is inserted into the vehicle. These events occur when the hold-open latch does not disengage following the prior refueling. To date thirteen (13) spraying incidents have been reported and confirmed by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). Seven (7) of these incidents involved consumers being sprayed with gasoline.

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To ensure public safety and allow the approximately 3,000 gasoline stations equipped with VST nozzles **to continue their operations**, the OSFM hereby **mandates that the hold-open latch be removed from all VST nozzles**. Gasoline stations with VST nozzles must have the hold-open latch removed in order to remain in operation. It should be noted that the removal of the hold-open latch **does not exempt** gasoline station owners/operators from complying with the **ARB mandated inspection requirements**. The gas station owners/operators are obligated to remove the hold-open latches at their stations by **October 15, 2010** in order to remain in operation. If the station owners/operators fail to complete and sign the form demonstrating compliance with the mandate and return it to ARB by October 15, 2010, you will be notified of the gasoline stations that are not in compliance.

We also **strongly recommended** that the station owners/operators post signs on the dispensers warning the public not to use objects to engage the nozzle trigger for fueling.

The ARB is currently working with VST and other manufacturers on replacement nozzles. When these replacement nozzles become available, they will provide the station owners the option of replacing their current VST nozzles with a nozzle that provides a hold-open latch for their customers.

Fire Chiefs/Fire Marshals

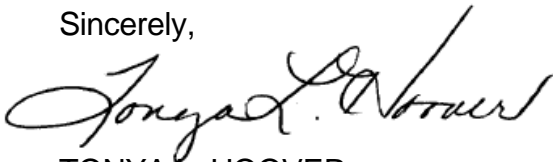
August 24, 2010

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For your convenience, I have attached the letter that was sent to the gas station owners/operators and a list of gasoline stations that are presently equipped with the affected VST nozzles in your jurisdiction. I am requesting your assistance in the enforcement of this mandated action to reduce the potential fire risk to the public.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and your partnership in fire prevention. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact James Parsegian, Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering Division at (916) 445-8415 or james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya L. Hoover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "H".

TONYA L. HOOVER
Acting State Fire Marshal

Attachments