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This circular is	For guidance	No response required	
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	Guidance relating to advice given by the fire and rescue service about leaving keys in the ignition of tankers at fuel distribution sites.		

Guidance regarding Security of Tankers at Fuel Distribution Sites

Issued by:

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Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Please forward to:

Relevant personnel

Summary

The Department for Transport (DfT) recognise that there is a need to improve the security of vehicle ignition keys at fuel distribution sites, particularly with regard to leaving keys in the vehicles, which has sometimes been the practice in order to move the vehicles quickly in case of fire. In a time of heightened security this practice needs to be reviewed. The security aspect should now be included in any risk assessments. This circular provides the guidance given to sites by DfT which fire and rescue services should take into account during any assessments of such sites.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate of the Department for Transport (DfT) have identified the need for improvements in vehicle ignition key controls at fuel distribution sites.
- 1.2 The current practice at many such sites is to leave loaded vehicles on site unlocked with the keys in the ignition. This practice has normally been implemented following consultation with the local fire and rescue service, the theory being that, in the event of a fire, the vehicles may need to be moved quickly.
- 1.3 DfT have raised concerns about these procedures from a security perspective. Their general advice to drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods is to never leave keys in or on the vehicle. DfT have therefore agreed, in consultation with ODPM, the following best practice for such sites.

2.0 Best practice for vehicles at fuel distribution sites

- 2.1 If the risk to safety of loaded tankers from fire is greater than the risk to security, then keys should be left in the vehicle ignition. However, given the vulnerabilities at sites that store loaded vehicles, it is more likely that the security risk will be greater. In these instances the following is recommended:
- 2.2 Filled tankers should be parked, as far as practicable, from large storage tanks.
- 2.3 The vehicles should be locked and the keys kept in a secure place (usually the gatehouse of the site) with controlled access to them. Pre-planning should identify such sites.
- 2.4 Keys should also be marked, so that emergency services are able to identify which vehicle they belong to, and be immediately available to authorised personnel 24/7.
- 2.5 Site staff should be trained in the action required in the event of fire threatening tankers and this should be coordinated with the local fire and rescue service.
- 2.6 Sites should institute an audit process to ensure that the procedures are maintained.

3.0 Actions by fire and rescue services

- 3.1 Fire and rescue services should be aware of and take account of these recommendations when they are consulted by site owners regarding their fire safety risk assessments and ensure a balanced view is taken regarding the fire safety and security of such sites.

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