

SOP: Refuelling Bluebird K7 & K3

1. Purpose

To ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible refuelling of Bluebird K7 & K3, with minimal risk of fire, spillages, contamination, or damage.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all personnel involved in refuelling the Bluebird K7 & K3 hydroplane / boat, including support crew, fuel suppliers, maintenance staff, etc.

3. Responsibilities

- **Fueling Supervisor / Lead Mechanic** – ensures that procedure is followed, safety equipment is in place, records are kept.
- **Fuel Operator** – carries out actual refuelling, checks equipment, complies with safety and environmental rules.
- **All staff in vicinity** – adhere to no-smoking, no ignition source rules; be aware of emergency procedures.

4. Safety Equipment & PPE

- Fire extinguishers (suitable class for fuel fires) located nearby.
- Spill kit (absorbents, containment booms if needed, protective sheet etc.).
- Personal Protective Equipment: safety goggles, gloves resistant to fuel, non-sparking boots, coveralls.
- Grounding / bonding equipment (to prevent static sparks).

5. Preparations Prior to Refuelling

1. Verify fuel type required for Bluebird K7 & K3 and quality (e.g. octane, additives) – must meet manufacture specification.
2. Inspect fuel tank, filler cap, hoses, nozzle, and fuel storage for cleanliness and integrity. Check for leaks, damage.
3. Ensure fuel storage containers or bowsers are properly grounded and bonded.
4. Locate and ensure spill response materials / containment and emergency shut-off controls are accessible.
5. Ensure engine is shut down. No electrical systems running unnecessarily.
6. Remove any ignition sources / open flames in the area. No smoking.
7. Notify team members present; restrict non-essential personnel.

6. Refuelling Procedure

Step Action

- 6.1 Position Bluebird K7 & K3 so that the fuel filler cap is accessible. Boat stable and secure.
- 6.2 Clean around filler cap to avoid dirt entering the tank.
- 6.3 Open filler cap; keep cap in a clean, safe place so it's not contaminated or lost.
- 6.4 Ground / Bond nozzle to the filler neck (touch the metal of the nozzle to filler neck) to eliminate static build-up.
- 6.5 Begin refuelling slowly; monitor fuel flow and tank filling. Avoid overfilling – leave a margin for expansion (fuel and temperature).
- 6.6 Listen / watch for back pressure or automatic shut-off in nozzle. Do not force more fuel once nozzle stops.
- 6.7 After filling, allow nozzle to drain a few seconds to capture residual fuel, before removing. Keep nozzle upright when removing to reduce drips.
- 6.8 Close and secure filler cap properly. Ensure seal is good.
- 6.9 Clean up any spills or drips immediately, using the spill kit. Prevent fuel entering water (if refuelling near or over water), soil, or drains.

7. After Refuelling Checks & Actions

- Inspect around filler neck and cap for leaks.
- Wipe any fuel on boat surfaces.
- Ensure all equipment (nozzle, hoses) are returned and stored properly.
- Update fuel log: amount taken, date/time, person responsible, fuel batch number, etc.
- Dispose or store any leftover fuel or contaminated materials per environmental / hazardous waste rules.

8. Emergency Procedures

- In case of major spill: stop fuel flow immediately, contain spill, notify emergency response team or authority.
- In case of fire: use appropriate fire extinguisher; if uncontrolled, evacuate and call fire service.

- If fuel enters water: follow environmental spill containment procedures; notify marine / environmental authority.

9. Training & Documentation

- All personnel must be trained in this procedure, including use of PPE, spill response, emergency shut-offs.
- Keep documentation of refuelling events, inspections, training, incidents.
- Review SOP periodically or when there is a change (fuel type, equipment, regulation).