



Bulletin #2006-003a 4 – January - 2006

Subject:
Fuel Cells

Overview:

Effective January 29, 2006, 5.7.D “Safety Fuel Cell Specifications” is eliminated.

Effective January 29, 2006, 5.7.E “Safety Fuel Cell Specifications” is replaced in its entirety as follows:

1. A fuel-resistant and fire-retardant plate or shield is required between the passenger compartment and the compartment or area in which the fuel tank or cell is located.
2. The original fuel tank may only be replaced by an FIA approved fuel cell provided that:
 - a. The original fuel tank is removed.
 - b. The fuel cell is properly vented to outside the vehicle from the compartment in which it is located.
 - c. The original fuel filler opening is sealed, if not used for the fuel cell.
 - d. Should the fuel cell and its filler be located in the luggage compartment, an outlet must be provided for fuel spilled in the compartment.
 - e. Where fuel cells are installed in the passenger compartment of vehicles such as "hatchback" variants, 5.7.E.1 above applies. The filler is considered part of the fuel cell. The partition must be a separate part or assembly from the fuel cell container, unless the container was originally designed as a sealed unit.
 - f. A positive locking fuel filler cap (no Monza/flip-type) shall be used, and fuel pickup openings and lines, breather vents, and fuel filler lines shall be designed and installed so that if the car is partially or totally inverted, fuel shall not escape. If the filler cap is not located directly on the fuel bladder, a check valve shall be incorporated in the fuel bladder to prevent fuel escaping if the cap and filler neck are torn from the bladder. Fuel cell breathers shall vent outside the car. It is not permitted to vent the fuel system through the roll cage structure. The cell need not incorporate a drain fitting. It is recommended that all lines, filler openings, and vents be incorporated in a single fitting located at the top of the fuel cell.

3. Supplementary fuel tanks are not permitted.

Effective January 29, 2006, 5.7.F "Fuel and Oil lines" is replaced in its entirety as follows:

If fuel lines are re-routed through the passenger compartment, they shall be in compliance with the following:

- a. Shall incorporate a metallic casing. (If the metallic casing is not exterior to the line, a verifiable sample must be presented at scrutineering.)
- b. Shall have a minimum of 200 psi rating. If fuel lines are routed through the passenger compartment by the manufacturer, it is recommended that they be in compliance with this section.
- c. Fuel pumps shall be isolated from the driver/co-driver by a fireproof metal bulkhead.
- d. If the filler tube passes through the unprotected cockpit, the tube must have a sealed metallic cover at least .020" thick, and the filler shall not be secured to an exterior body panel in such a way that an impact with the exterior of the vehicle could force the tube apart. The filler cap must be protected by a cover separate from the car body if the tube passes through the unprotected cockpit.

Stewards may interpret this bulletin as necessary to resolve penalties or protests.

Questions regarding this bulletin received by Rally America from licensed Drivers and Co-Drivers will be answered in writing.