



BLUE BIRD

R18ZE

FINAL NOTICE

DATE: February 11, 2019
TO: Blue Bird Owners
Subject: Recall R18ZE, Intermittent Air Gauge Operation (Noncompliance)

According to our records, we have not received confirmation that the above referenced recall dated August 1, 2018, has been completed. A copy of Recall R18ZE is attached. Your buses affected by Recall R18ZE are identified by Blue Bird body number and VIN under Section 2 on the enclosed cover sheet.

If this is the first time you have received notification of Recall R18ZE, please read the enclosed notification carefully. Buses must be corrected immediately. Blue Bird has decided the instrument cluster on the affected buses may have a synchronization error between two microprocessors in which one of the microprocessors is dedicated to drive the two air pressure gauges. As such, these vehicles fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) Number 121, "Air Brake Systems." When turning the key to the ignition "ON" position the two gauges on the instrument cluster that display the primary and secondary system air pressure could display "0 psi", instead of the correct air pressure in the tanks. When this occurs, the air gauges remain zeroed and will not display the actual system air pressure correctly, and give a false indication to the driver that there is a brake pressure issue, when there is adequate pressure in the air tanks. If the gauges do not correctly display the air pressure that is in the tanks, the operator will not be able to know when the air pressure is actually dropping, increasing the risk of a crash.

Buses with this non-compliance must be corrected immediately. A software update is currently available. The expected out of service time necessary to accomplish the software update is 18 minutes. **Contact your local Blue Bird Dealer to schedule an appointment to perform a software update to rectify the issue at no cost to the owner.**

If you have already had R18ZE performed on your affected buses, please complete and mail the enclosed recall reply sheet to us in the enclosed postage paid pink reply envelope so we may update our recall records. Be sure the reply sheet is filled out properly.



R18ZE

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

NHTSA Recall Number: 18V-263 School Bus
NHTSTA Recall Number: 18V-264 Non-School Bus

DATE: August 1, 2018

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

SUBJECT: Recall R18ZE, Intermittent Air Gauge Operation (Noncompliance)

This important safety recall notice applies to your bus(es) identified by both Blue Bird Body Number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the enclosed pink cover sheet.

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company is recalling certain model year 2018-2019 Vision School Buses manufactured from April 13, 2017 through April 12, 2018, and certain model year 2018-2019 Vision Non-School Buses manufactured from June 28, 2017 through April 13, 2018. Blue Bird Body Company is also recalling certain model year 2018-2019 All American School Buses manufactured from April 24, 2017 through April 13, 2018, and certain model year 2018-2019 All American Non-School Buses manufactured from July 1, 2017 through March 28, 2018.

Blue Bird has determined the instrument cluster on the affected buses may have a synchronization error between two microprocessors in which one of the microprocessors is dedicated to drive the two air pressure gauges. As such, these vehicles fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) Number 121, "Air Brake Systems." When turning the key to the ignition "ON" position, the two gauges on the instrument cluster that display the primary and secondary system air pressure could display "0 psi" instead of the correct air pressure in the tanks. When this occurs the air gauges remain zeroed and will not display the actual system air pressure correctly, and give a false indication to the driver that there is a brake pressure issue, when there is adequate pressure in the air tanks.

Buses with this non-compliance must be corrected immediately. A software update is currently available. The expected out of service time necessary to accomplish the software update is 30 minutes. **Contact your local Blue Bird Dealer to schedule an appointment to perform a software update to rectify the issue at no cost to the owner.**

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by both the Blue Bird Body Number(s) and Vehicle Identification Number(s) (VIN) on the enclosed pink cover sheet. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the pink cover sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
3920 Arkwright Road, Suite 200, Macon, GA 31210 – (478) 825-2021



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R18ZE

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, attach a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage prepaid envelope included with the pink reply coversheet to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:
1-888-327-4236 TTY 1-800-424-9153 or go to: <http://www.safercar.gov>

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242 or lisa.hancock@blue-bird.com

Lisa Hancock

Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Corporation
3920 Arkwright Road, Suite 200 Macon Georgia 31210
Phone 478.822.2242
lisa.hancock@blue-bird.com



Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

RECALL

Models Affected: Certain 2018 - 2019 Model Year Vision and All American Air Brake Buses

ISSUE

When turning the key to the ignition "ON" position, the two gauges on the instrument cluster that display primary and secondary system air pressure intermittently display "0 psi" instead of the correct air pressure in the tanks.

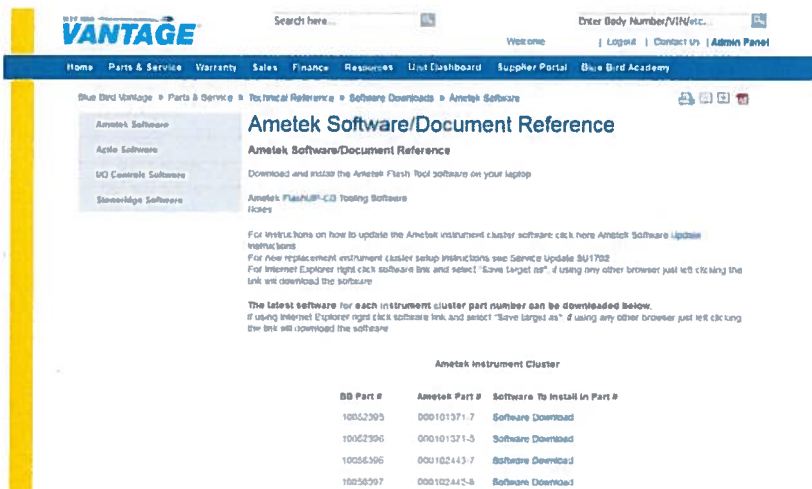
CORRECTIVE ACTION

Affected buses will require instrumentation software be updated to the latest version. Complete the corrective action software update procedure below.

SOFTWARE UPDATE PROCEDURE

WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment, and thoroughly read and understand all instructions before performing these procedures.
NOTE: This software update is NOT applicable to buses with hydraulic brakes.

1. Follow instructions on Page 2 and verify the "Spec" and "SW Version" number of the instrument cluster installed on the affected bus being serviced.
2. Based on "Spec" number of instrument cluster, download applicable software file from the Blue Bird Vantage website. Note: Requires Vantage Blue Bird Dealer login access.
<https://vantage.blue-bird.com/Portal/Ametek-SoftwareDocument-Reference.aspx>



3. Follow instructions on Pages 3-7 and install applicable software file in instrument cluster. Note: Cluster will display "Finalizing Update" **DO NOT Remove Power!**
4. Follow instructions on Page 2 and verify "SW Version" displayed is the updated software version level you just installed. Update procedure is complete.

R I S Z E
RECALL CAMPAIGN

R18ZE - Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

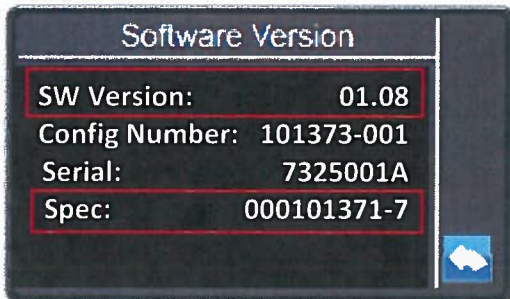
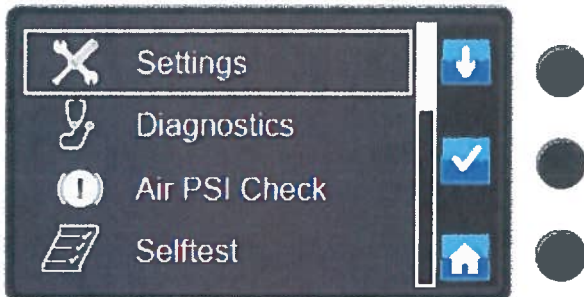
Access the Settings and Diagnostic menu by setting the Park Brake and then from the Drive Mode screen press the BOTTOM button and hold for more than 3 seconds or until the menu appears. Press the top button to move or toggle the selection box through the list as indicated by the softkey arrows. The item in the selection box will be selected when the middle button is pressed (as indicated by the softkey check mark). Select "Selftest" then toggle the selection box through the list and then select "Software Version".

Verify software version is correct for applicable Spec number.

If yes, update procedure is complete. If no, verify software version being installed and reflash.

Note: The "SW Version" number displayed is the software version level currently installed.

Note: The "Spec" number displayed is the Ametek part number listed on the Vantage website and below.



BB Part #	Ametek Part #	Software To Install In Part #
10052395	000101371 - 7	297101373-001k V1.8.s19
10052396	000101371 - 5	297101373-001k V1.8.s19
10056396	000102443 - 7	297102554-001c V2.0.s19
10056397	000102442 - 5	297102554-001c V2.0.s19

R18ZE - Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

Objective

These instructions will walk you through the process of updating the Ametek instrument cluster software version. Ametek FlashUIP-CD tooling software and the latest software versions to install in the instrument cluster are both available under Parts & Service, Software Downloads, Ametek Software, on the Blue Bird Dealer Vantage website. Note: Ametek instrument clusters used in Blue Bird buses have an “.s19” software file extension.

Ametek instrument cluster software can be updated on a workbench or with instrument cluster installed on a bus.

Materials

Laptop with Ametek FlashUIP-CD tooling software and the latest Ametek cluster ‘.s19’ software version.

An RP1210 communication adapter supported by the Ametek FlashUIP-CD tooling software.

Blue Bird recommended RP1210 communication adapter: Dearborn DPA-5 USB

Tool #10055458 Blue Bird bench program harness. Only required if programming Ametek cluster on workbench.

Tool #10049528 Blue Bird J1939 250K adapter. Maybe required if programming Ametek cluster on bus, reference Service Memorandum SM1603.

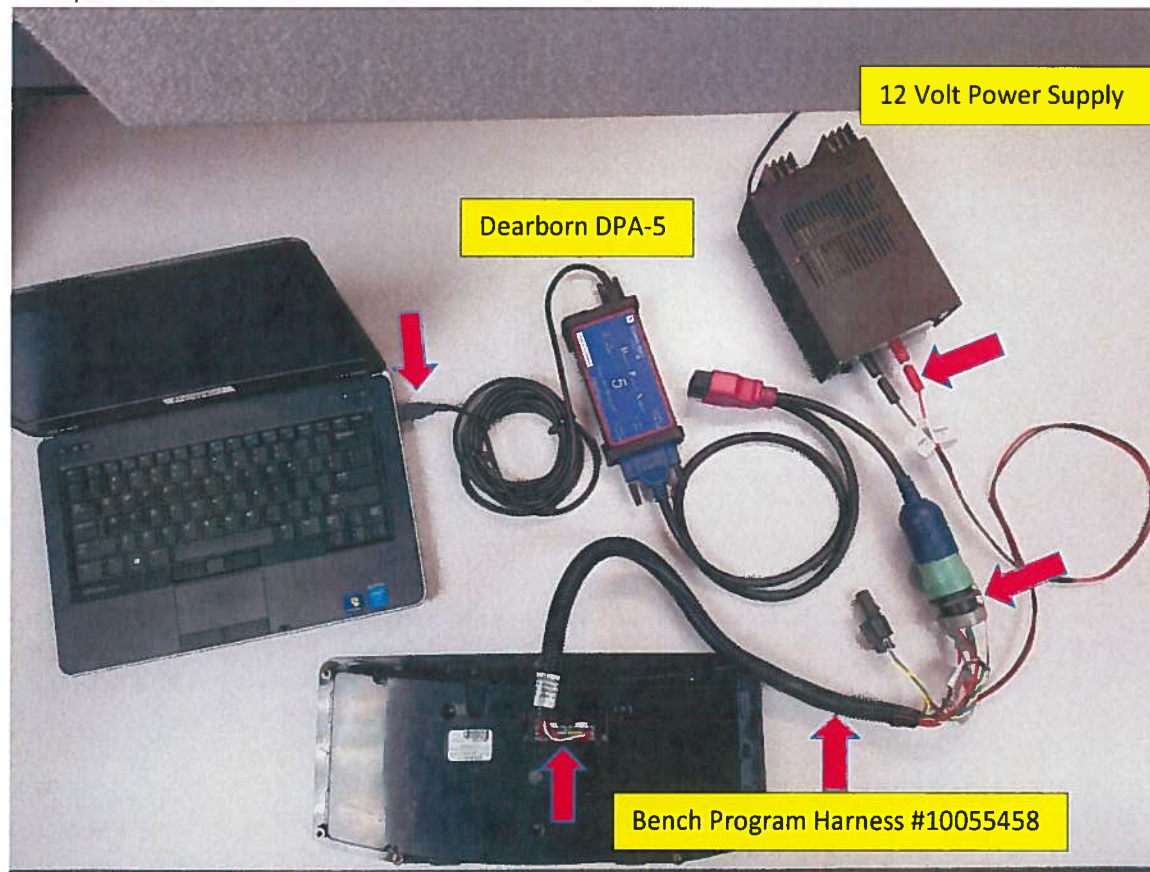
12V power supply. Only required if programming Ametek cluster on workbench.

Procedure

Connecting Laptop and Ametek Cluster to Update Software on a Workbench

To update the Ametek instrument cluster software version on a workbench, connect bench program harness #10055458 to rear side of instrument cluster. Connect black J1939 diagnostic port connector on bench program harness to a Dearborn DPA-5 or equivalent RP1210 communication adapter. Then connect Dearborn DPA-5 or equivalent RP1210 communication adapter to the laptop using the USB connection. Last connect bench program harness #10055458 to a 12V power supply. Turn 12V power supply on.

Example Workbench connections shown below:



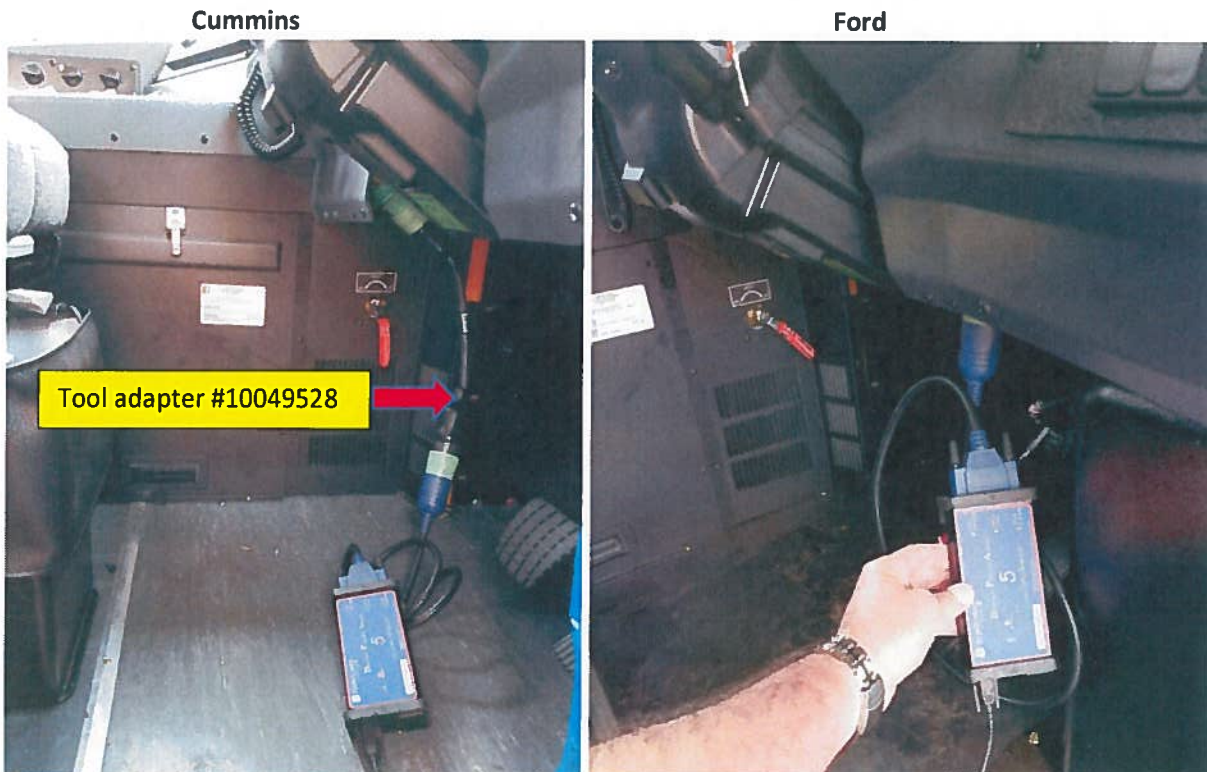
R18ZE - Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

Connecting Laptop and Ametek Cluster to Update Software on a Bus

To update the Ametek cluster software version on a bus, connect Dearborn DPA-5 or equivalent RP1210 communication adapter to the laptop using the USB connection and then connect to the J1939 diagnostic port of the bus. Note: Based on year model, engine model, J1939 diagnostic port will be located on lower left or right side of the steering column. Cummins diesel engines that are EPA/CARB certified (Built on or after 01/18/2016) will require service tool adapter #10049528, reference Service Memorandum SM1603.

Example: Vision bus diagnostic port connections shown below:

Note: Tool adapter #10049528 is ONLY required with Cummins (Bus has Green Diagnostic Port).



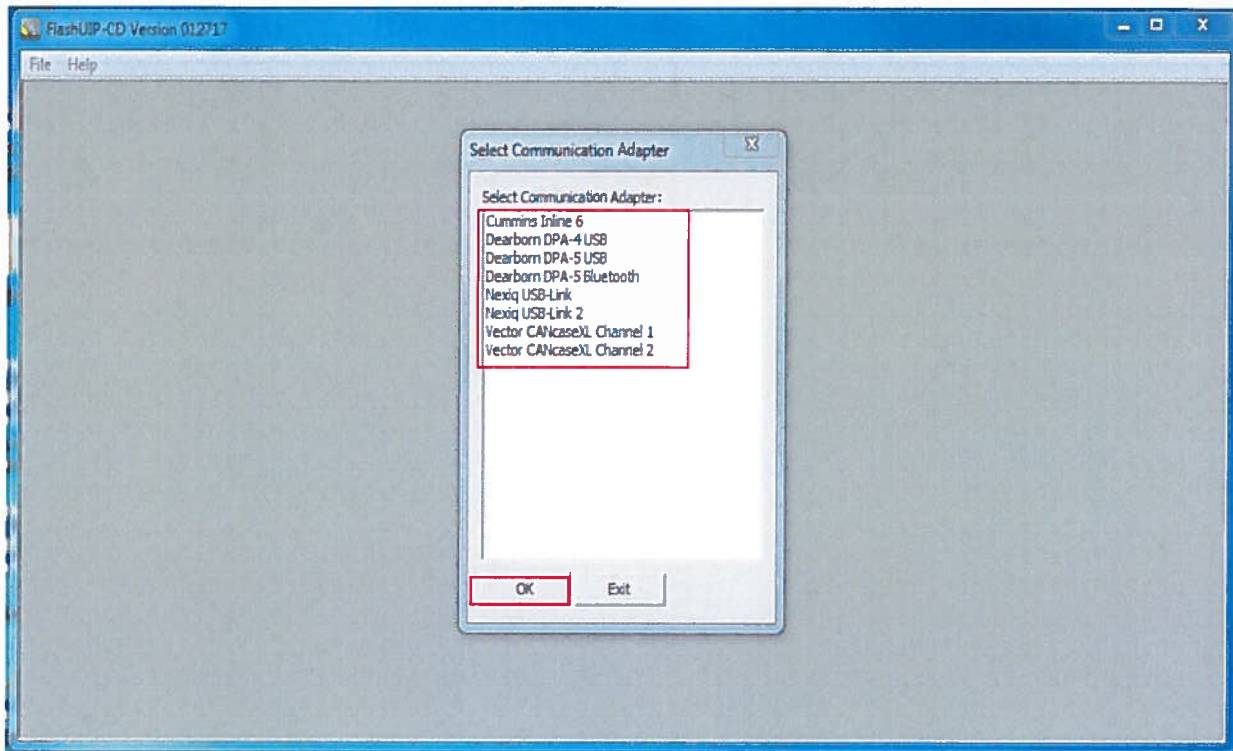
Downloading and Updating Ametek Software

On Blue Bird Dealer Vantage website download and save to Desktop the Ametek software to install in the instrument cluster. Note: Software to install in the instrument cluster has an '.s19' file extension type. Download Ametek FlashUIP-CD tooling software zip file. Extract all, right click, select send shortcut to Desktop. Double click Desktop shortcut to open FlashUIP-CD software tool on your laptop:

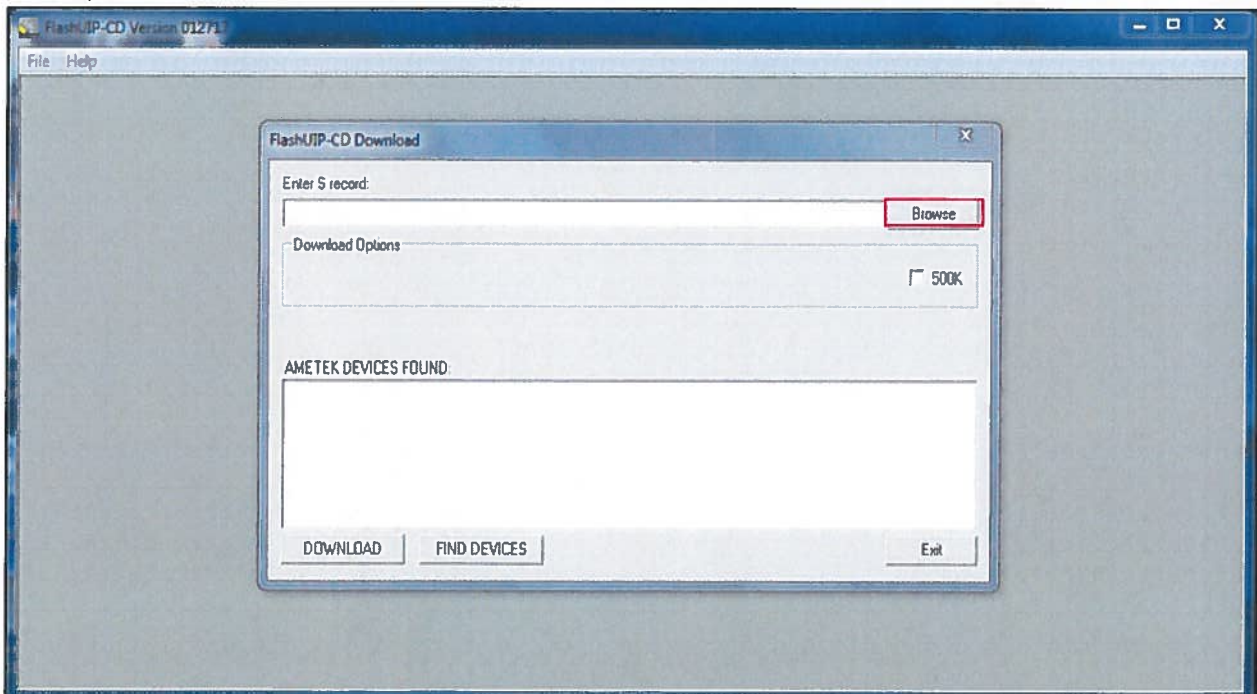


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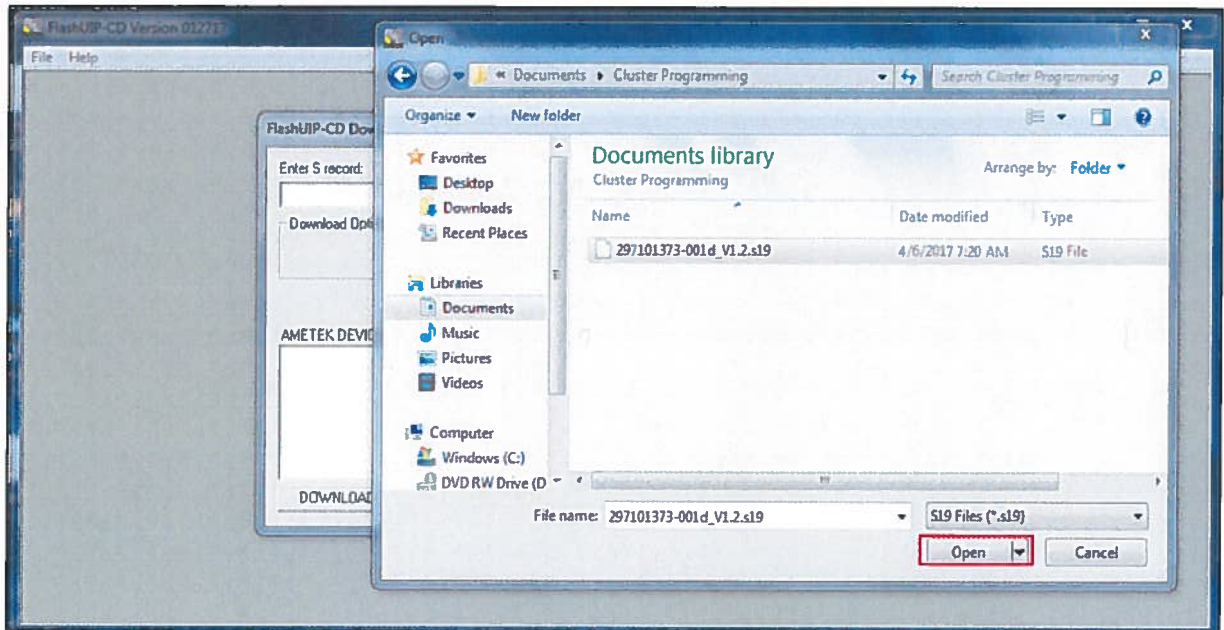
Select the applicable supported RP1210 communication adapter from the list and click 'OK':



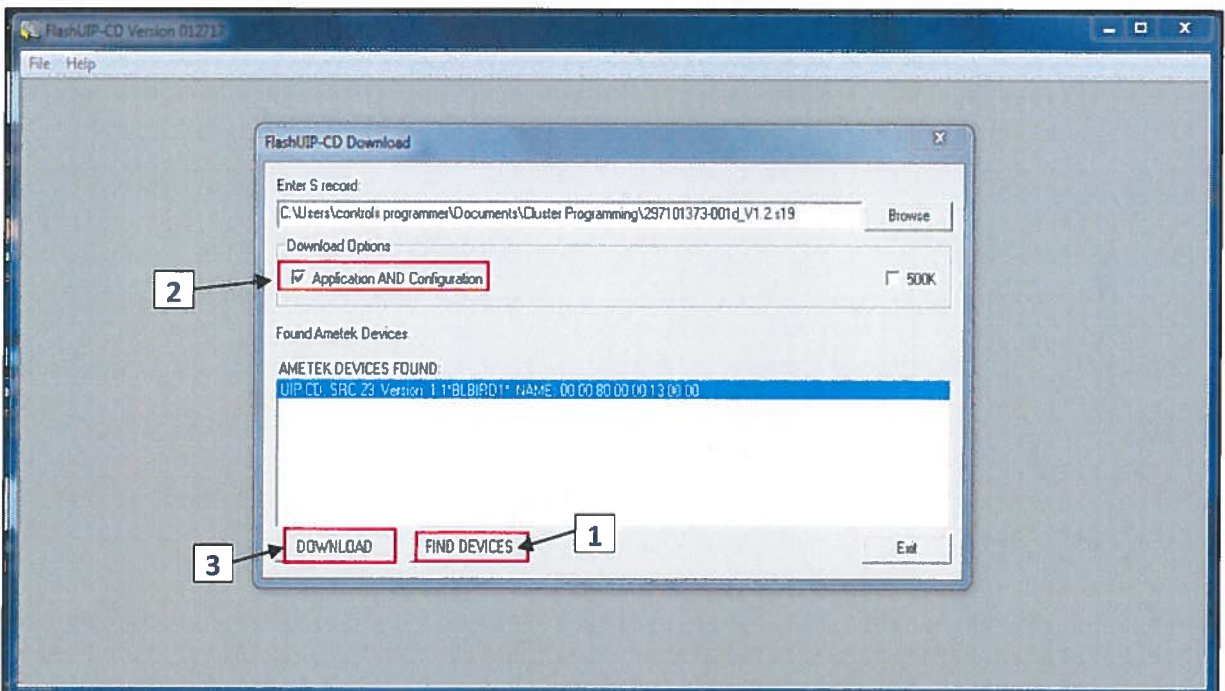
From the FlashUIP-CD Download screen, click 'Browse' and select the .s19 software to be installed in cluster and click 'Open':



R18ZE - Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

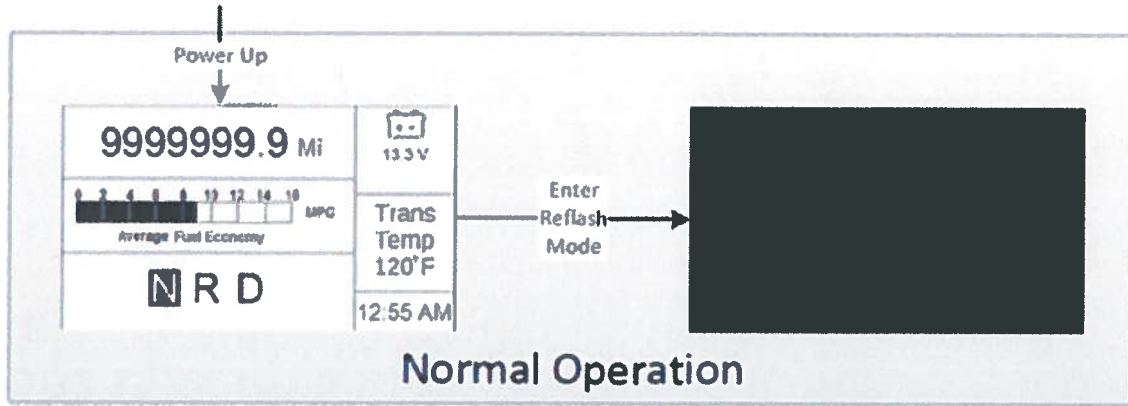


Once the correct file is selected, click 'FIND DEVICES' at the bottom of the window. Then check the box for 'Application AND Configuration' and click 'DOWNLOAD':

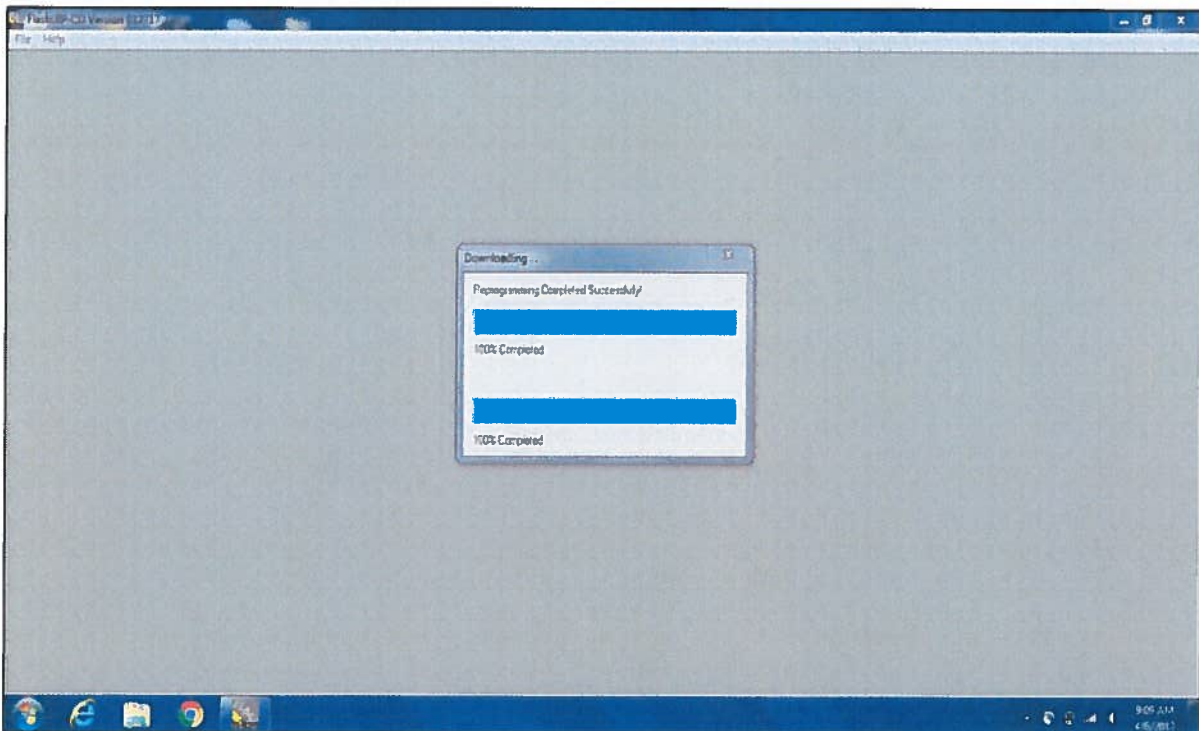


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The Ametek FlashUIP-CD tooling software erases the current files and then begins the software update. Once downloading has started the instrument cluster LCD will display 'Reflash In Progress'.



Once downloading has completed, the screen will display 'Reprogramming Completed Successfully!' Both status bars will display '100% Completed' as shown below and you may exit the application.

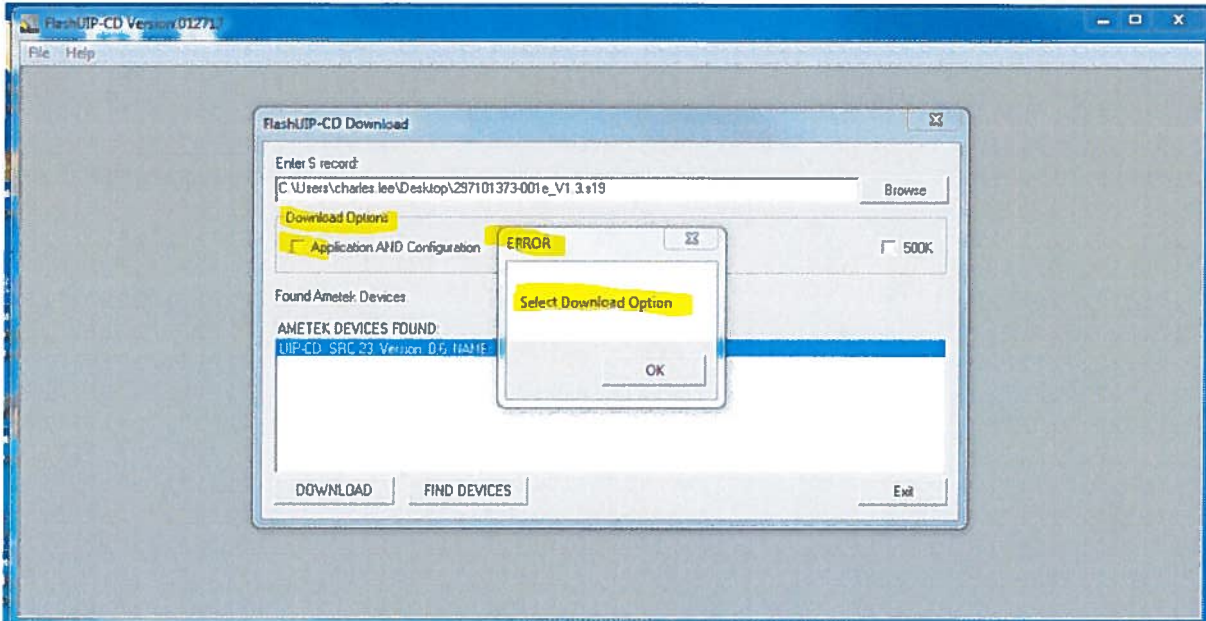


R18ZE - Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

Possible Error Messages When Programming, Possible Cause, and What to Check

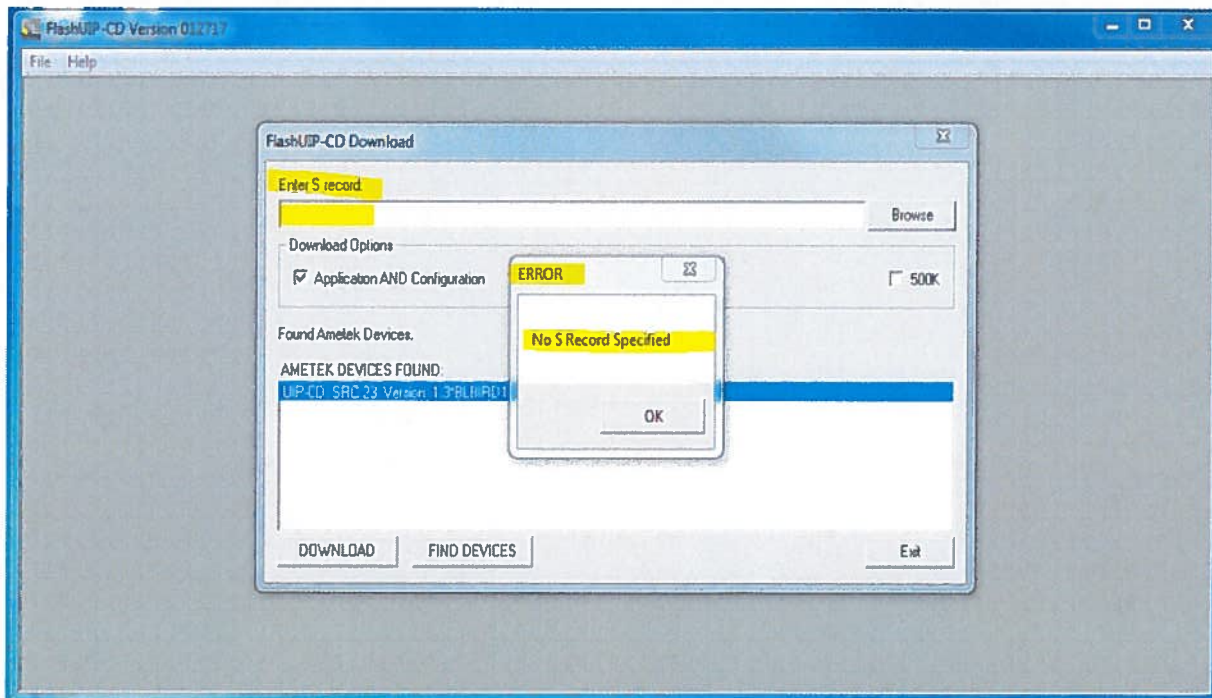
ERROR 'Select Download Option'

The 'Application AND Configuration' box was NOT checked before clicking the "DOWNLOAD" button.



ERROR 'No S Record Specified'

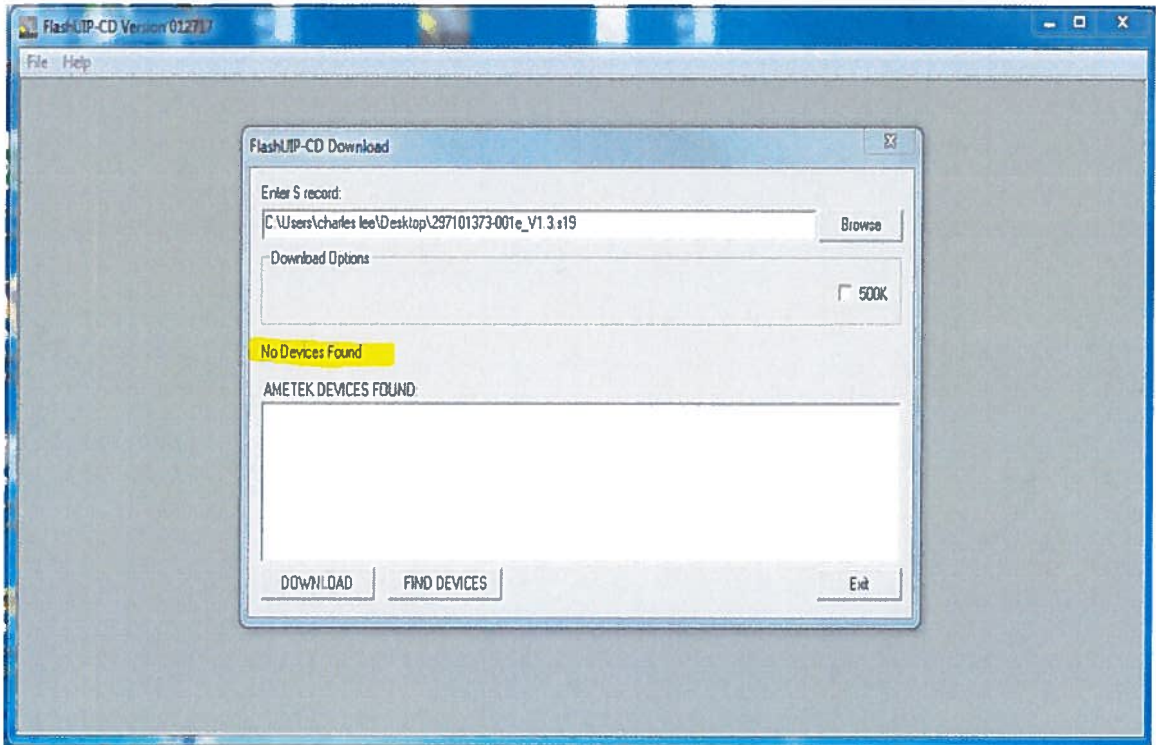
.s19 software file MUST be selected. Click 'Browse' and select the .s19 software to be installed in cluster and click 'Open':



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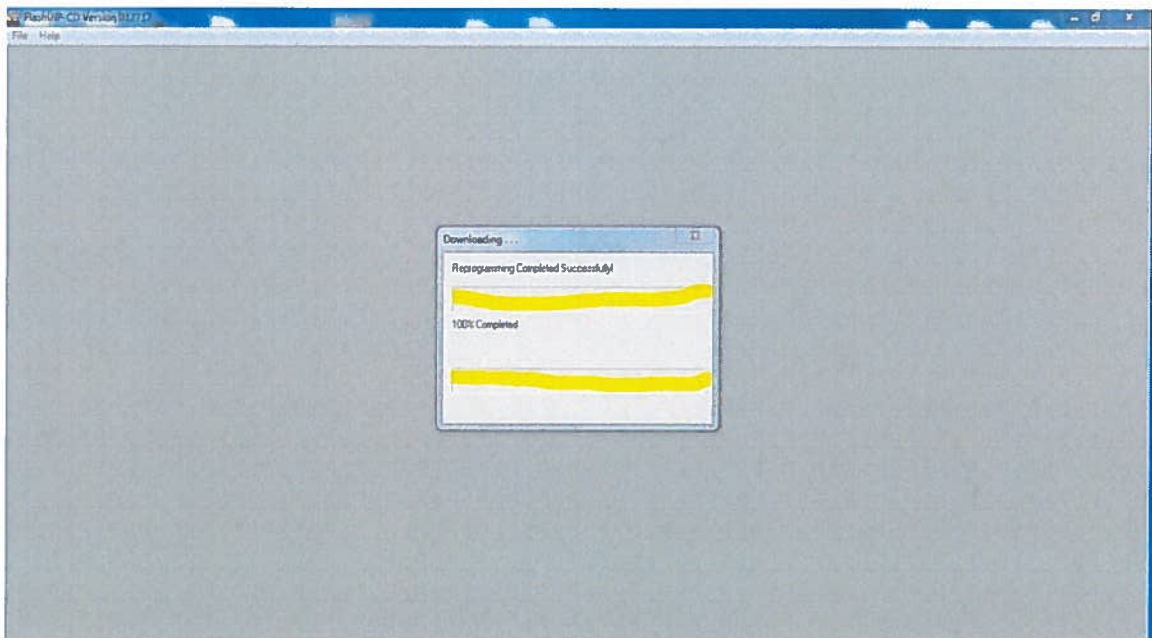
'No Devices Found'

Check J1939, battery, ignition, and ground connections at the cluster and the diagnostic port connector.



'Both status bars are blank'

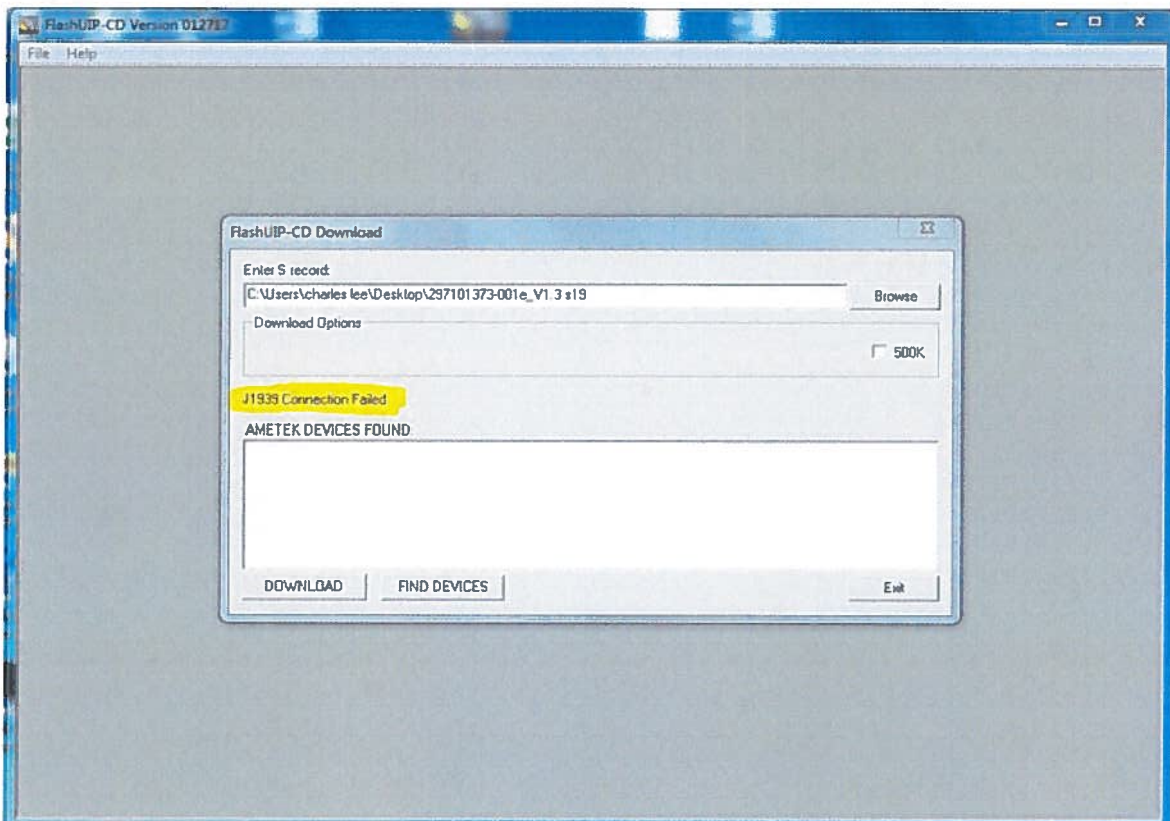
The incorrect file type was selected. Insure the file type selected is '.s19'



R18ZE - Intermittent Air Gauge Operation

'J1939 Connection Failed'

Note: Tool adapter #10049528 is REQUIRED on buses with Cummins and "Green" diagnostic port connector. Check J1939, battery, ignition, and ground connections at the cluster and the diagnostic port connector. Also check the USB cable connection from the Laptop to the RP1210 communication adapter. If all connections check good use laptop 'Device Manager' to verify communication adapter is functioning properly and recognized (Communication adapter software driver installed correctly).



'Reflash Required'

Instrument cluster software files were erased and updated process was not successful. Possible causes include loss of power, ground, or J1939, during software update. Check J1939, battery, ignition, and ground connections at the cluster and the diagnostic port connector.

