Komatsu excavators are equipped with an automatic cold start preheating system that heats intake air when temperatures are below freezing. When the key is moved to the on position in below freezing temperatures, the preheating pilot lamp lights up for up to 40 seconds while intake air is being preheated. When the pilot lamp goes out, the engine is ready to be started. Intake air preheating can also be active manually by moving the key to the heat position.

When the key is moved and held in the “heat” position, the air intake grid heater is energized and a pilot lamp is illuminated. When manually activated, the grid heater operates until the key is moved from the “heat” position or after 30 seconds (actual time may vary by model).

Rotating the key and holding in “heat” position warms intake air for easier starting when ambient temperatures are close to freezing.