



Biodiesel Standards Confirm Fuel Quality, Help Develop New Engine Designs

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

ASTM International, one of the largest and most highly regarded standards development organizations in the world, has officially published its highly anticipated biodiesel blend specifications on its website.

In an article published online in the November 2008 issue of Biodiesel Magazine, Steve Howell, technical director for the National Biodiesel Board and chairman of the ASTM Biodiesel Task Force, said that before these new standards were established, there were no separate specifications for finished blends of biodiesel and diesel fuel. As long as the two parent fuels met their specs, they could be blended up to B20.

“With the passage of these specifications, biodiesel used in B20 blends and lower can now be considered a proven fuel,” Howell said. The new specifications have also been designed so that when B100 and diesel fuels meet their respective specifications prior to blending, the blended products will always meet the new blended fuel specs.

“Diesel users can be confident that the fuels meeting the newly approved specs are fit for purpose,” Howell added. “OEMs can now use these specs to design new engines - and regulators can use them to enforce fuel quality.”

The new biodiesel blend specifications include:

- ASTM D975-08a, Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils - used for on-on-road diesel applications, was revised to include requirements for up to five percent biodiesel
- ASTM D7467-08, Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil, Biodiesel Blend (B6 to 20) - a completely new specification that covers finished fuel blends of between six (B6) and 20 (B20) percent biodiesel for on- and off-road diesel engine use
- ASTM D6751-08, Specification for Biodiesel Fuel Blend Stock (B100) for Middle Distillate Fuels - used to control pure biodiesel (B100) quality prior to blending with conventional diesel type fuels, was revised to include a requirement that controls minor compounds using a new cold soak filterability test