



DMS NOTICE

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August 11, 2008

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Determining Biodiesel Blend Concentrations

Biodiesel blends are sure to become more prevalent in the marketplace since the American Society of Testing and Materials International (ASTM) D02 Main Committee approved three long-awaited ASTM specifications for biodiesel blends:

- Changes to the existing B100 biodiesel blend stock specification (ASTM D6751)
- Revised specifications to include up to 5% biodiesel (B5) in the conventional petrodiesel specification (ASTM D975)
- A new specification for blends of between 6 percent biodiesel (B6) to 20 percent biodiesel (B20) for on and off road diesel.

ASTM D975 and ASTM D6751 are already adopted by code or regulation. The Division of Measurement Standards will review the B6 – B20 ASTM specification for adoption into California regulations.

One of the main concerns regarding biodiesel blends is the posted biodiesel concentration. A method has been developed by ASTM that employs a Fourier Transform Mid Infrared (FTIR) Spectrometer and an Attenuated Total Reflectance cell. This method has undergone full statistical analysis and its accuracy and precision are known. The Sacramento Petroleum Laboratory has purchased an FTIR Spectrometer for analyses of samples collected by Division investigative staff. It is anticipated our laboratory will begin performing this test in September 2008. Upon request, this analysis will include samples taken by county weights and measures officials.

Biodiesel Field Test Kits are also available, but these should be considered a screening technique only and should not be used for enforcement.



If you have further questions or wish to submit a sample to the Sacramento Petroleum Laboratory for testing using the FTIR method, please contact Al Hebert at (916) 229-3030.

Sincerely,



Edmund E. Williams
Director

cc: Kevin Masuhara, Director, County Liaison Office