

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Division of Measurement Standards
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95826-4808

DMS NOTICE
P – 02 – 3

December 19, 2002

Discard: 12/03

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS**SUBJECT: Zeltex Octane Tester Recalibration**

Beginning in the first quarter of 2003, many (but not all) of the oil companies will be changing their gasoline formulations. They will be switching from Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) to Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol). Because of this change most of the Zeltex Octane Testers in use will no longer provide accurate predictions. The manufacturer of the instruments did provide two built in models; one for fuels containing MTBE and the second for ethyl alcohol. To provide the most accurate octane predictions the ethyl alcohol model must be corrected for California reformulated fuel formulations.

As soon as the oil companies make the change, we will begin collecting the representative samples needed to perform the model correction. Once that has been completed, a second notice will be issued requesting all units be transported to the Sacramento Petroleum Laboratory for recalibration and activation of the ethanol prediction model.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Al Hebert, Petroleum Products Chemist III, at (916) 229-3030.

Sincerely,

Mike Cleary
Director
(916) 229-3000