



Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000

**CLEAN FUELS
BULLETIN**

15 August 2002

UPDATE

**PROPOSED OPERABILITY STANDARDS FOR
PETROL AND DIESEL**

In June 2002, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Hon Dr Kemp, endorsed the operability standards as detailed in the tables below, and these standards will be added to the *Fuel Standard (Diesel) Determination 2001* and the *Fuel Standard (Petrol) Determination 2001* (the Determinations).

Following advice from several refiners and an importer, and a meeting of the Fuel Standards Consultative Committee on 12 August 2002, it was agreed to delay implementation of the **acidity** parameter in diesel.

It is now expected that the operability standards below will come into effect on 16 October 2002.

As previously advised in the July 2002 Clean Fuels Bulletin, due to legislative drafting issues, the following operability parameters (now including acidity in diesel), have not, at this stage, been put to the Minister for decision:

- for petrol: drivability index, flexible volatility index, colour and appearance (in relation to a drivability index specification, this is unlikely to be resolved until a decision is made on the maximum limit of ethanol in petrol.); and
- for diesel: appearance, and cloud point and cold filter plugging point.

Note that when the above parameters are resolved a minimum of two months notice will be provided to industry of the implementation date.

Proposed petrol 'operability standards'

Fuel Parameter	Fuel grade	Specification	Referee Test Method
MON	PULP	85.0 (min)	ASTM D2700
	ULP	81.0 (min)	ASTM D2700
	LRP	82.0 (min)	ASTM D2700
Copper Corrosion (3 hrs @ 50°C)	All	Class 1 (max)	ASTM D130
Existent Gum (washed)	All	50 mg/L (max)	ASTM D381
Induction Period	All	360 minutes (min)	ASTM D525

Proposed diesel 'operability standards'

Fuel Parameter	Specification	Referee Test Method
Carbon Residue (10% distillation residue)	0.2 mass % max	ASTM D4530
Water and sediment	0.05 vol % max	ASTM D2709
Conductivity @ambient temp	50 pS/m (Min) @ambient temp (only applies at terminals/refineries/major distribution centres)	ASTM D2624
Oxidation Stability	25 mg/L max	ASTM D2274
Colour	2 max	ASTM D1500
*Acidity	Total: 0.08 mg KOH/g (Max) Strong: nil	ASTM D974
Copper Corrosion (3 hrs @50°C)	Class 1 max	ASTM D130
Flash point	61.5°C min	ASTM D93
Filter blocking tendency	2.0 max	IP 387
Lubricity	0.460 mm (max) (only for diesel containing less than 500ppm sulfur)	IP 450

* Proposed to defer legislation of this parameter at this stage.

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