



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage



Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000

CLEAN FUELS BULLETIN

December 2003

Post 2006 Vehicle and Fuel Standards – Draft Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) Released

The Motor Vehicle Environment Committee (MVEC), made up of national and state transport and environment officials, has released a Draft RIS for Vehicle Emissions and Fuel Quality Standards for Post 2006. The report has been published in electronic form only and will be available at the EPHC website on 19 December 2003: <http://www.ephc.gov.au/mvec/>.

The Draft RIS has been prepared as part of an MVEC Review that commenced with the release of a Discussion Paper in May. The Draft RIS was prepared on the basis of stakeholder submissions on the Discussion Paper, as well as on the outcomes of a Cost Benefit Analysis. Copies of these documents can also be found at the EPHC website.

The key recommendations of the Draft RIS are:

Light Vehicles Package

- *Euro 4* emission standards for light vehicles in 2008/2009 supported by a 50ppm sulfur petrol (95RON) standard in 2008, followed by a 10ppm sulfur petrol (95RON) standard in 2010.

Heavy Vehicles Package

- *Euro 5** emission standards for heavy vehicles in 2009/2011 supported by 10ppm sulfur diesel standards in 2009
*with US EPA 2007 and Japan 05 Long Term emission standards accepted as alternatives.

Stakeholders now have until 12 March 2004 to provide submissions on the Draft RIS. Submissions should be provided electronically to Jens.Light@deh.gov.au. The RIS will then be finalised and presented to Ministers for their decision making.

Amendments to the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000*

The *Fuel Quality Standards Regulations 2001* (the Principal Regulations) provide the detail for the requirements prescribed under the Act in relation to compliance with fuel quality standards, including record keeping and documentation requirements.

The Regulations have been amended to clarify and correct a number of definitions in the Principal Regulations; add new definitions; and simplify a number of onerous documentation and record keeping requirements to facilitate full compliance by the fuel industry with the Act and the Principal Regulations.

The amended Act will be available at:

<http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/cgi-bin/download.pl?/scale/data/pasteact/3/3418>

New Fuel Quality Standards

Two additional Fuel Quality Standards for petrol will come into effect on the 1 January 2004. Standards are as follows:

Parameter	Standard	Grade	Date of Effect
Olefins	18% pool average over 6 months with a cap of 20%	All grades	1 Jan 2004
	18% max by vol	All grades	1 Jan 2005
MTBE (Methyl tertiary-butyl ether)	1% by volume (max)	All grades	1 Jan 2004

Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000

Fuel Standard (Autogas) Determination 2003

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage made the Automotive Liquefied Petroleum Gas *Fuel Standard (Autogas) Determination 2003* on 19 December 2003.

The *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* (the Act) establishes a regulatory regime in relation to activities involving fuel and fuel additives. The Act and the *Fuel Quality Standards Regulations 2001* provide the framework for making and enforcing national fuel quality standards.

Section 21 of the Act provides that the Minister may, in writing, determine that specified matters constitute a fuel standard in respect of a specified kind of fuel.

The *Fuel Standard (Autogas) Determination 2003* (the Determination) specifies physical and chemical parameters which must be met before Liquefied Petroleum Gas can be supplied for motor vehicle use in Australia.

Before making this determination, the Minister consulted with the Fuel Standards Consultative Committee in accordance with section 24A of the Act.

Details of the Determination are set out at www.scaleplus.law.gov.au. The Autogas standard commences 1 March 2004.

Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000 Fuel Quality Information Standard (Ethanol) Determination 2003

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage made the *Fuel Quality Information Standard (Ethanol) Determination 2003* on the 19 December 2003 under the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000*. The Determination specifies the labelling requirements for the sale of ethanol-petrol blends sold in Australia.

The Information Standard commences 1 March 2004.

Copies can be obtained from the following internet sites:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/atmosphere/ethanol/index.html>

<http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/>.

Approvals Granted under the Act

Since the previous Clean Fuels Bulletin and after consultation with the Fuel Standards Consultative Committee, the Minister has granted two approvals under Section 13 of the Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000. These are listed in the table below.

Name of Approval Holder	Period of Operation	Approved Variation of Fuel Standard
BP Refinery (Bulwer Island) Pty Ltd	31 December 2003 – 31 December 2004	Variation of Fuel Standard (Diesel) Determination 2001 to permit the supply of diesel with a minimum density level of 810 kg/m ³
Assistant Secretary, Health and Community Strategies Branch, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing	31 December 2003 – 31 December 2005	Variation of Fuel Standard (Petrol) Determination 2001 to permit the supply of avgas under the 'Comgas Scheme'.

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about any of the information in this Bulletin, please contact:

Clean Fuels and Vehicles
Department of the Environment and Heritage
John Gorton Building
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

fuel.quality@deh.gov.au
www.deh.gov.au/atmosphere/transport/index.html

Or the Community Information Unit 1800 803 772

Any changes to the distribution of the *Clean Fuels Bulletin* should be emailed to fuel.quality@deh.gov.au

