

## **Proposed Standard for Fuel Parameters (Biodiesel) Response to Submissions**

Dear Stakeholder,

The Department of the Environment and Heritage wishes to thank those stakeholders that submitted responses to the Proposed Standard for Fuel Parameters (Biodiesel) – Commonwealth position paper. Thirteen submissions were received by the deadline **(15 August 2003 by 12 noon)**. Ten submissions were received after the due date and were also considered. Submissions consisted of responses from biodiesel proponents, car manufacturers, dispensing equipment manufacturers, consumer groups, and State government agencies. Those submissions not marked as confidential have been posted on the website at [\(link\)](#).

A wide range of quality parameters set out in the position standard were specifically commented on. A number of other issues related to the standard setting process were also raised including blends, labelling, fuel economy, dispensing pumps and biocide additives. These issues are separate to the standard setting process and will be addressed over the next several months.

As stated in the position paper it is currently anticipated that the labelling amendments to the *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* (the Act) will be considered by Parliament during the Spring sittings this year. These amendments may or may not pass at this time.

### Changes made to the proposed standard from comments received

Two changes were made to the proposed standard.

- The specification for **Copper strip corrosion** has been changed to **Class 3 (max)** with **ASTM D130** used to determine compliance.
- The specification for **Alkaline Metals** has been amended to **Metals**.

The latest revised version of the standards table is at: [link](#).

### Setting the standard – making the Determination

Under the Act the Minister may, in writing, determine that specified matters constitute a fuel standard in respect of a specified kind of fuel. The Determination is the statutory instrument created under the Act that sets out the standard for Biodiesel.

The indication that a specification and/or test method for a parameter is “to be announced” cannot be included within the signed and gazetted Determination. Therefore the following information will not be included in the Determination:

- **Cold Filter Plugging Point**

The Cold Filter Plugging Point parameter is important and will continue to be assessed for introduction into the determination on 18 September 2004.

- ASTM (TBA) – for **Alcohol content**

We will continue to assess all potential suitable test methods that can be used to determine compliance under the Act.

#### Test methods

The test methods set out in the Biodiesel standard are those that will be prescribed by the Government to determine compliance i.e. to determine if biodiesel meets the specifications for the parameters set out in the standard. Industry can use test methods it wishes to determine compliance, however, any other test methods used must be comparable in relation to measurement uncertainty to provide industry with the confidence that the fuel is compliant. It will be the prescribed test methods in the Determination that will be used as the basis for determining compliance in a court of law.

#### Finalising the standard

It is the intention for the Fuel Standards (Biodiesel) Determination 2003 to be made by 18 September 2003.

Further consideration and assessment of some parameters and test methods i.e. Cold Filter Plugging Point, will be carried out prior to the introduction of the next suite of parameters in September 2004. The standard setting process is dynamic and we will be seeking further stakeholder comment on relevant issues as they arise.