

Comments from Infineum Industrial Liaison. Infineum is an international additive company that has R&D, manufacturing and sales of both fuel and lubricant additives. Its web site is <http://infineum.com> The comments below may be useful.

"The Australians have it exactly right. Cetane Number is a measured property while Index is a correlated measure based on distillation properties of middle distillates. Index can not be determined for fuels containing additive CNI or biodiesels. Number is measured using a single cylinder engine manufactured by Waukesha in Wisconsin. The price of the engine exceeds 250,000 USD and the method requires significant operator interaction.

There is a big however that may be acceptable to the Australian government. A Canadian company called Advanced Engine Technology, Ltd has developed an instrument to measure diesel fuel ignition quality, interestingly enough, called an Ignition Quality Tester (IQT). ASTM and IP methods have been developed using the instrument. The following link will get you the company's brochure.

http://www.aet.ca/IQT_Info_Brochure.pdf

In my estimation, this method will eventually be adopted as either a replacement for or an alternative to the engine method for determining diesel fuel cetane number. Cost, better correlation and ease of operation make this method far more acceptable. Inertia is the only thing standing in the way. Maybe an Australian pull could help the rest of the world to a better solution.

If you require additional information, please let me know."

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