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Definition of Premium Diesel Fuel Gets an Overhaul

By: Kathy Dresser

Thanks to the tremendous work done by the Premium Diesel Work Group, the L&R Committee overhauled the definition of premium diesel fuel, which was adopted by the NCWM at this year's conference.

The former cafeteria-style approach to labeling premium diesel fuel had been an issue for many jurisdictions for a number of years. Previously, refiners only had to meet any two of the five requirements to label their products as "premium". Potentially, this resulted in two very dissimilar products bearing the same name.

The new definition for premium diesel sets forth four requirements that all diesel fuels must meet in order to be labeled as premium. It eliminates the "energy content" and highly controversial "fuel injector cleanliness" requirements, while adding "lubricity" as a factor. An added bonus to the single definition is that it eliminates the need for extensive labeling of properties. To promote uniformity, the ASTM Standard Test Methods for thermal stability and lubricity have been incorporated.

The L&R Committee wishes to recognize and thank the members of the Premium Diesel Work Group for their contributions: R. Jennings, Tennessee; R. Leisenring, Jr, Chevron Texaco; C. Cooney, Oregon; L. Cunningham, Ethyl Corporation; D. Daniels, Octel-Starreon; C. Yarnold, ONDEO Nalco; D. Harvey, Citgo Petroleum; R. Hayes, Missouri; M. Herman, Herman & Associates; G. Mittermaier, Petroleum Marketers; M. Nikanjam, Chevron Products Co.; J. Peeples, AAE Technologies, Inc; D. Smith, North Carolina; and N. Strete, Lubrizol Corp.

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