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Mr. Russ Miller  
Director- Engineering & Commodity Management Division  
GSA Automotive  
General Services Administration  
2200 Crystal Drive, Suite 1006  
Arlington, VA

Subject: GSA Engineering Fuels Special Request

Dear Russ,

All our engines are approved for B5 so long as the biodiesel fuel meets certain standards. For Cat, DDC, and MBE engines, the fuel must meet ASTM D6751 and the petroleum diesel must meet ASTM 975. Cummins requires the fuel to meet ASTM PS-121. In certain cases, an additional oxidation standard applies. Cat approves B30 meeting the same ASTM standards in C7, C9, C11, C13, C15, 3126, C-10, C-12, 3406, and C-16 engines. (For the rest of Cat's engines, only B5 is acceptable.) We are testing B20 with our incumbent engines DDC and MBE and have not completed the full cycle we will notify you as soon as those are complete.

When switching from a petroleum diesel to a biodiesel blend, the customer should watch for fuel filter clogging. Clogging is a normal experience and should not be taken as a sign of problems. In vehicles older than ~1990, fuel line/seal degradation may occur. Care should be taken against fuel gelling in cold climates. In addition, regularly check engine oil, which on rare occasion oil will start to sludge. For all engines, monitor all fuel lines and fittings as biodiesel may cause gaskets to contract/expand, which could lead to fuel leaks.

I am not exactly sure what to say about fuel additives. The EPA strictly regulates them. I cannot recommend use of any EPA-prohibited additive. Some engine manufacturers may recommend for or against specific additives, based on the needs of their engines.

Use of non-ULSD fuel in vehicles with MY2007 or later engines is illegal. If non-ULSD fuel (or fuel with too much non-ULSD additives) is used in such vehicles, the particulate filters could become clogged. Clogged filters will decrease fuel economy and may eventually lead to engine failure, which may in turn void the engine warranty.

Very truly yours,

Margaret D. Wallace  
Sr. Contracts Administrator