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Comments submitted electronically

Federal Trade Commission/Office of the Secretary
Room H-159 (Annex F)
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
<https://secure.commentworks.com/ftc-biodiesel>

Subject: FR Notice, Vol. 73, No. 48, FTC 16 CFR Part 306, Automotive Fuel Ratings, Certification and Posting

The American Petroleum Institute (API) respectfully submits the following comments to the subject proposed rule published in the Federal Register March 11, 2008. API represents nearly 400 member companies involved in all aspects of the oil and natural gas industry from exploration and production to retail marketing and distribution.

API agrees with the FTC approach that requires that the automotive fuel rating and certification requirements should use the same three categories as the posting and labeling requirements. The requirement to label fuel at the retail dispenser as suggested provides the consumer with the information necessary to fuel properly his/her vehicle.

API supports the chosen color of purple for the background of the label. That color provides an appropriate contrast between regular diesel labels (often green), gasoline-octane labels (yellow) and E85 labels (orange).

API has several suggestions to improve the rule.

Labels (306.12)

API recommends that for the labels for B-XX blends (i.e., biodiesel blends containing more than 20 percent biodiesel), that there be a clear and distinct differentiation from the labels for B-20 blends (i.e., biodiesel blends containing more than 5 percent and no greater than 20 percent). We recommend that the B-XX label should be preceded by the word MAXIMUM, in block letters in all caps. Thus the text in the "black band" at the top of the label would read, "MAXIMUM/B-XX/Biodiesel Blend." This would provide greater assurance to the consumer that there is no more than the stated percentage in the blend and it will make the B-XX label appear different from the B-20 label.



Fuel Storage & Dispensing Compatibility

Existing information does not affirm that biodiesel is compatible with the existing retail-diesel infrastructure. ASTM D975 addresses fuel quality and performance with biodiesel blends below 5%. However, that standard does not necessarily address the compatibility of the fuel with the infrastructure. This is an area that we believe should be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions or are in need of clarification, please contact me at the information provided above.

Sincerely,
Prentiss Searles