Designation: D 7467 – 08

An American National Standard

Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil, Biodiesel Blend (B6 to B20)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 7467; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers fuel blend grades of 6 to 20 volume percent (%) biodiesel with the remainder being a light middle or middle distillate diesel fuel, collectively designated as B6 to B20. These grades are suitable for various types of diesel engines.

1.1.1 The biodiesel component of the blend shall conform to the requirements of Specification D 6751. The remainder of the fuel shall be a light middle or middle distillate grade diesel fuel conforming to Specification D 975 grades No. 1-D and No. 2-D of any sulfur level specified with the following exceptions. The light middle or middle distillate grade diesel fuel whose sulfur level, aromatic level, cetane, or lubricity falls outside of Specification D 975 may be blended with biodiesel meeting Specification D 6751, provided the finished mixtures meets this specification.

1.1.2 The fuel sulfur grades are described as follows:

1.1.2.1 *Grade B6 to B20 S15*—A fuel with a maximum of 15 ppm sulfur.

1.1.2.2 *Grade B6 to B20 S500*—A fuel with a maximum of 500 ppm sulfur.

1.1.2.3 *Grade B6 to B20 S5000*—A fuel with a maximum of 5000 ppm sulfur.

1.2 This specification prescribes the required properties of B6 to B20 biodiesel blends at the time and place of delivery. The specification requirements may be applied at other points in the production and distribution system when provided by agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

1.2.1 Nothing in this specification shall preclude observance of federal, state, or local regulations that may be more restrictive.

NOTE 1—The generation and dissipation of static electricity can create problems in the handling of distillate diesel fuel oils. For more information on this subject, see Guide D 4865.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:* [2]

D 56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Cup Tester

D 86 Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products at Atmospheric Pressure

D 93 Test Methods for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester

D 129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (General Bomb Method)

D 130 Test Method for Corrosiveness to Copper from Petroleum Products by Copper Strip Test

D 445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)

D 482 Test Method for Ash from Petroleum Products

D 524 Test Method for Ramsbottom Carbon Residue of Petroleum Products

D 613 Test Method for Cetane Number of Diesel Fuel Oil

D 664 Test Method for Acid Number of Petroleum Products by Potentiometric Titration

D 975 Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils

D 976 Test Method for Calculated Cetane Index of Distillate Fuels

D 1266 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (Lamp Method)

D 1319 Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types in Liquid Petroleum Products by Fluorescent Indicator Adsorption

D 1552 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (High-Temperature Method)

D 2500 Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products

D 2622 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

D 2709 Test Method for Water and Sediment in Middle Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge

D 2880 Specification for Gas Turbine Fuel Oils

D 3117 Test Method for Wax Appearance Point of Distillate Fuels

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.E0 on Burner, Diesel, Non-Aviation Gas Turbine, and Marine Fuels.

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[2] For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

D 3120 Test Method for Trace Quantities of Sulfur in Light Liquid Petroleum Hydrocarbons by Oxidative Microcoulometry
D 3828 Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester
D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
D 4294 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
D 4539 Test Method for Filterability of Diesel Fuels by Low-Temperature Flow Test (LTFT)
D 4737 Test Method for Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation
D 4865 Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems
D 5453 Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Spark Ignition Engine Fuel, Diesel Engine Fuel, and Engine Oil by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
D 5771 Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products (Optical Detection Stepped Cooling Method)
D 5772 Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products (Linear Cooling Rate Method)
D 5773 Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products (Constant Cooling Rate Method)
D 6079 Test Method for Evaluating Lubricity of Diesel Fuels by the High-Frequency Reciprocating Rig (HFRR)
D 6217 Test Method for Particulate Contamination in Middle Distillate Fuels by Laboratory Filtration
D 6371 Test Method for Cold Filter Plugging Point of Diesel and Heating Fuels
D 6468 Test Method for High Temperature Stability of Middle Distillate Fuels
D 6469 Guide for Microbial Contamination in Fuels and Fuel Systems
D 6751 Specification for Biodiesel Fuel Blend Stock (B100) for Middle Distillate Fuels
D 6890 Test Method for Determination of Ignition Delay and Derived Cetane Number (DCN) of Diesel Fuel Oils by Combustion in a Constant Volume Chamber
D 7371 Test Method for Determination of Biodiesel (Fatty Acid Methyl Esters) Content in Diesel Fuel Oil Using Mid Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR-ATR-PLS Method)
E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

2.2 *Other Standards:*

26 CFR Part 48 Manufacturers and Retailers Excise Taxes[3]
40 CFR Part 80 Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives[3]
EN 14078 Liquid petroleum products - Determination of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) content in middle distillates - Infrared spectrometry method[4]
EN 14112 Fat and oil derivatives - Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) - Determination of oxidation stability (Accelerated oxidation test)[4]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.2 *biodiesel*, *n*—fuel comprised of mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats, designated B100.

3.3 *B6 to B20*, *n*—fuel blend consisting of 6 to 20 volume percent biodiesel conforming to the requirements of Specification D 6751 with the remainder being a light middle or middle distillate grade diesel fuel and meeting the requirements of this specification.

3.3.1 *Discussion*—The abbreviation BXX represents a specific blend concentration in the range B6 to B20, where XX is the percent volume of biodiesel in the fuel blend.

3.4 *S(numerical specification maximum)*—indicates the maximum sulfur content, in weight ppm (µg/g), allowed by this specification.

4. Test Methods

4.1 The requirements enumerated in this specification shall be determined in accordance with the following methods:

4.1.1 *Acid Number*—Test Method D 664.

4.1.2 *Flash Point*—Test Method D 93, except where other methods are prescribed by law. Test Method D 3828 may be used as an alternate with the same limits. Test Method D 56 may be used as an alternate with the same limits, provided the flash point is below 93°C. This test method will give slightly lower values. In cases of dispute, Test Method D 93 shall be used as the referee method.

4.1.3 *Cloud Point*—Test Method D 2500. For all B6 to B20 grades in Table 1 the automatic Test Methods D 5771, D 5772, or D 5773 can be used as alternates with the same limits. Test Method D 3117 can also be used since it is closely related to Test Method D 2500. In case of dispute, Test Method D 2500 shall be the referee test method.

4.1.4 *Cold Filter Plugging Point (CFPP)*—Test Method D 6371.

4.1.5 *Low Temperature Flow Test (LTFT)*—Test Method D 4539.

4.1.6 *Water and Sediment*—Test Method D 2709.

4.1.7 *Carbon Residue*—Test Method D 524.

4.1.8 *Ash*—Test Method D 482.

4.1.9 *Distillation*—Test Method D 86.

4.1.10 *Viscosity*—Test Method D 445.

4.1.11 *Sulfur*—Table 2 shows the referee test methods and alternate test methods for sulfur, the range over which each test method applies and the corresponding fuel grades.

4.1.12 *Aromaticity*—Test Method D 1319. This test method provides an indication of the aromatic content of fuels. For fuels with a maximum final boiling point of 315°C, this test method is a measurement of the aromatic content of the fuel. Grade S5000 does not have an aromatics content.

4.1.13 *Cetane Index*—Test Method D 976.

4.1.14 *Lubricity*—Test Method D 6079.

4.1.15 *Copper Corrosion*—Test Method D 130, 3 h test at 50°C minimum.

[3] Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401.

[4] Available from the National CEN members listed on the CEN website (www.cenorm.be.) or from the CEN/TC 19 Secretariat (astm@nen.nl).

TABLE 1 Detailed Requirements for B6 to B20 Biodiesel Blends

Property	Test Method	Grade		
		B6 to B20 S15	B6 to B20 S500[A]	B6 to B20 S5000[B]
Acid Number, mg KOH/g, max	D 664	0.3	0.3	0.3
Viscosity, mm^2/s at 40°C	D 445	1.9-4.1[C]	1.9-4.1[C]	1.9- 4.1[C]
Flash Point, °C, min	D 93	52[D]	52[D]	52[D]
Cloud Point, °C, max or LTFT/CFPP, °C, max	D 2500, D 4539, D 6371	[E]	[E]	[E]
Sulfur Content, (µg/g)	D 5453	15	...	...
mass %, max	D 2622	...	0.05	...
mass %, max	D 129	...	...	0.50
Distillation Temperature, °C, 90% vol recovered, max	D 86	343	343	343
Ramsbottom Carbon Residue on 10% bottoms, mass %, max	D 524	0.35	0.35	0.35
Cetane Number, min	D 613[F]	40[G]	40[G]	40[G]
One of the following must be met:	D 976-80[H]	40	40	40
(1) Cetane index, min.				
(2) Aromaticity, %vol, max	D 1319-03[H]	35	35	...
Ash Content, mass%, max	D 482	0.01	0.01	0.01
Water and Sediment, volume%, max	D 2709	0.05	0.05	0.05
Copper Corrosion, 3 h at 50°C, max	D 130	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3
Biodiesel Content, % (V/V)	D 7371	6. - 20.	6. - 20.	6. - 20.
Oxidation Stability, hours, min	EN 14112	6	6	6
Lubricity, HFRR at 60°C, micron (µm), max	D 6079	520[I]	520[I]	520[I]

[A] Under United States of America regulations, if Grades B6-20 S500 are sold for tax exempt purposes then, at, or beyond terminal storage tanks, they are required by 26 CFR Part 48 to contain the dye Solvent Red 164 at a concentration spectrally equivalent to 3.9 lb per thousand barrels of the solid dye standard Solvent Red 164, or the tax must be collected.

[B] Under United States of America regulations, Grades B6-20 S5000 are required by 40 CFR part 80 to contain a sufficient amount of the dye Solvent Red 164 so its presence is visually apparent. At or beyond terminal storage tanks, they are required by 26 CFR Part 48 to contain the dye Solvent Red 164 at a concentration spectrally equivalent to 3.9 lb per thousand barrels of the solid dye standard Solvent Red 26.

[C] If Grade No. 1-D or blends of Grade No. 1-D and Grade No. 2-D diesel fuel are used, the minimum viscosity shall be 1.3 mm^2/s.

[D] If Grade No. 1-D or blends of Grade No. 1-D and Grade No. 2-D diesel fuel are used, or a cloud point of less than -12°C is specified, the minimum flash point shall be 38°C.

[E] It is unrealistic to specify low temperature properties that will ensure satisfactory operation at all ambient conditions. In general, cloud point (or wax appearance point) Low Temperature Flow Test, and Cold Filter Plugging Point Test may be useful to estimate vehicle low temperature operability limits but their use with B6 to B20 has not been validated. However, satisfactory operation below the cloud point (or wax appearance point) may be achieved depending on equipment design, operating conditions, and the use of flow-improver additives as described in X3.1.2. Appropriate low temperature operability properties should be agreed upon between the fuel supplier and purchaser for the intended use and expected ambient temperatures. Test Methods D 4539 and D 6371 may be especially useful to estimate vehicle low temperature operability limits when flow improvers are used but their use with B6 to B20 from a full range of biodiesel feedstock sources has not been validated. Due to fuel delivery system, engine design, and test method differences, low temperature operability tests may not provide the same degree of protection in various vehicle operating classes. Tenth percentile minimum air temperatures for U.S. locations are provided in Appendix X3 as a means of estimating expected regional temperatures. The tenth percentile minimum air temperatures may be used to estimate expected regional target temperatures for use with Test Methods D 2500, D 4539, and D 6371. Refer to X3.1.3 for further general guidance on test application.

[F] Calculated cetane index approximation, Test Method D 4737, is not applicable to biodiesel blends.

[G] Low ambient temperatures, as well as engine operation at high altitudes, may require the use of fuels with higher cetane ratings. If the diesel fuel is qualified under Table 1 of Specification D 975 for cetane, it is not necessary to measure the cetane number of the blend. This is because the cetane number of the individual blend components will be at least 40, so the resulting blend will also be at least 40 cetane number.

[H] These test methods are specified in 40 CFR Part 80.

[I] If the diesel fuel is qualified under Table 1 of Specification D 975 for lubricity, it is not necessary to measure the lubricity of the blend. This is because the lubricity of the individual blend components will be less than 520 micron (µm) so the resulting blend will also be less than 520 (µm).

TABLE 2 Sulfur Test Methods

Sulfur Test Method	Range	Grades	Units Used to Report Results[A]
D 129 (referee)	>0.1 mass %	S5000	mass %
D 1266	0.0005 to 0.4 mass % 5 to 4000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	S500	mass %
D 1552	>0.06 mass %	S5000	mass %
D 2622 (referee for S500 grades)	0.0003 to 5.3 mass % 3 to 53 000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	all grades	mass %
D 3120	3.0 to 100 mg/kg (wt ppm)	S15, S500 (S500 grades must be diluted before testing)	ppm (µg/g)
D 4294	0.0150 to 5.00 mass % 150 to 50 000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	S5000	mass %
D 5453 (referee for S15 grades)	0.0001 to 0.8 mass % 1.0 to 8000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	all grades	ppm (µg/g)

[A] Results reported in mg/kg and in ppm (µg/g) are numerically the same. The units used in Table 1 for the sulfur requirements are the units in which results for the referee test are reported.

4.1.16 *Cetane Number*—Test Method D 613. Test Method D 6890 may also be used. In cases of dispute, Test Method D 613 shall be the referee test method.

4.1.17 *Oxidation Stability*—Test Method EN 14112. The subcommittee is aware of potential issues in the current version when used for biodiesel blends. This standard is being revised to resolve these issues. See X1.16.2 for further information.

4.1.18 *Biodiesel Content*—Test Method D 7371. Test Method EN 14078 may also be used. In cases of dispute, Test Method D 7371 shall be the referee test method. See Practice E 29 for guidance on significant digits.

5. Workmanship

5.1 The biodiesel blend (B6 to B20) shall be visually free of undissolved water, sediment, and suspended matter.

5.2 The biodiesel blend (B6 to B20) shall also be free of any adulterant or contaminant that may render the fuel unacceptable for its commonly used applications.

6. Requirements

6.1 The biodiesel blend (B6 to B20) specified shall conform to the detailed requirements shown in Table 1.

7. Keywords

7.1 biodiesel; biodiesel blend; diesel; fuel oil; petroleum and petroleum products

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. SIGNIFICANCE OF ASTM SPECIFICATION FOR B6 to B20 BIODIESEL BLENDS

X1.1 Introduction

X1.1.1 The properties of commercial B6 to B20 blends depend on the refining practices employed and the nature of the distillate fuel oils and biodiesel from which they are produced. Distillate fuel oils, for example, may be produced within the boiling range of 150 and 400°C having many possible combinations of various properties, such as volatility, ignition quality, viscosity, and other characteristics. Biodiesel, for example, can be produced from a variety of animal fats or vegetable oils that produce similar volatility characteristics and combustion emissions with varying cold flow properties.

X1.2 Cetane Number

X1.2.1 Cetane number is a measure of the ignition quality of the fuel and influences combustion roughness. The cetane number requirements depend on engine design, size, nature of speed and load variations, and on starting and atmospheric conditions. Increase in cetane number over values actually required does not materially improve engine performance. Accordingly, the cetane number specified should be as low as possible to ensure maximum fuel availability.

X1.3 Distillation

X1.3.1 The fuel volatility requirements depend on engine design, size, nature of speed and load variations, and starting and atmospheric conditions. For engines in services involving rapidly fluctuating loads and speeds, as in bus and truck operation, the more volatile fuels may provide best performance, particularly with respect to smoke and odor. The biodiesel portion of the B6 to B20 may also provide smoke and odor improvements. However, best fuel economy is generally obtained from the heavier types of fuels because of their higher heat content.

X1.4 Viscosity

X1.4.1 For some engines it is advantageous to specify a minimum viscosity because of power loss due to injection pump and injector leakage. Maximum viscosity, on the other hand, is limited by considerations involved in engine design and size, and the characteristics of the injection system.

X1.5 Carbon Residue

X1.5.1 Carbon residue gives a measure of the carbon depositing tendencies of a fuel oil when heated in a bulb under prescribed conditions. While not directly correlating with engine deposits, this property is considered an approximation.

X1.6 Sulfur

X1.6.1 The effect of sulfur content on engine wear and deposits appears to vary considerably in importance and depends largely on operating conditions. Fuel sulfur can affect emission control systems performance. To ensure maximum availability of fuels, the permissible sulfur content should be specified as high as is practicable, consistent with maintenance considerations and legal limits.

X1.7 Flash Point

X1.7.1 The flash point as specified is not directly related to engine performance. It is, however, of importance in connection with legal requirements and safety precautions involved in fuel handling and storage, and it is normally specified to meet insurance and fire regulations.

X1.8 Cloud Point

X1.8.1 Cloud point is of importance in that it defines the temperature at which a cloud or haze of wax crystals appears in the oil under prescribed test conditions that generally relates to the temperature at which wax crystals begin to precipitate from the oil in use.

X1.9 Ash

X1.9.1 Ash-forming materials may be present in fuel oil in three forms: *(1)* abrasive solids, *(2)* soluble metallic soaps, and *(3)* unremoved biodiesel catalysts. Abrasive solids and unremoved biodiesel catalysts contribute to injector, fuel pump, piston and ring wear, and also to engine deposits. Soluble metallic soaps have little effect on wear but may contribute to engine deposits and filter clogging.

X1.10 Copper Strip Corrosion

X1.10.1 This test serves as a measure of possible difficulties with copper and brass or bronze parts of the fuel system.

X1.11 Aromaticity

X1.11.1 This test is used as an indication of the aromatics content of diesel fuel. Aromatics content is specified to prevent an increase in the average aromatics content in diesel fuels. Increases in aromatics content of fuels over current levels may have a negative impact on emissions. Use of Test Method D 1319-03 or cetane index, Test Method D 976-80, is required in the United States of America by 40 CFR Part 80. The precision and bias of Test Method D 1319-03 with biodiesel blends is not known and is currently under investigation.

X1.12 Cetane Index

X1.12.1 Cetane index is specified as a limitation on the amount of high aromatic components in S15 and S500 Grades. Use of Test Method D 1319-03 or cetane index, Test Method D 976-80, is required in the United States of America by 40 CFR Part 80. The precision and bias of Test Method D 976-80 with biodiesel blends is not known.

X1.13 Total and Free Glycerin

X1.13.1 High levels of total or free glycerin can cause injector deposits and may adversely affect cold weather operation and filter plugging and result in a buildup of material in the bottom of storage and fueling systems. The total and free glycerin levels are controlled by Specification D 6751 to 0.24% mass maximum and 0.02% mass maximum, respectively. Diesel fuel contains no total or free glycerin, so the level of total and free glycerin in a biodiesel blend is solely derived from the biodiesel contribution and is extremely low and in direct proportion to the level of biodiesel added and its total and free glycerin values. In finished blends, the ability to measure total and free glycerin is compromised by interference with naturally occurring petroleum diesel fuel components and the extremely low values. No ASTM test methods for measuring total and free glycerin in blends currently exist, so no specification for the finished B6 to B20 blend is included. If test methods become available, the level of total and free glycerin should not exceed the maximum contribution derived from biodiesel based on the blend content and the maximum level allowed in Specification D 6751.

X1.14 Calcium and Magnesium, Sodium and Potassium, and Phosphorus Content

X1.14.1 Calcium and magnesium combined and sodium and potassium combined are controlled to 5 ppm maximum in Specification D 6751. Phosphorus is controlled to 10 ppm maximum in Specification D 6751. The presence of high levels of these elements could adversely affect exhaust catalysts and after-treatment systems. The concentration of these materials due to biodiesel in a B6 to B20 blends should be less than 1 or 2 ppm, making accurate measurement difficult. There are also no controls for these materials in Specification D 975 at present and no available database for the potential contribution of these materials from petroleum based diesel fuel. Based on this, a specification for finished blends for these compounds has not been established. If measured, the level of these materials should not exceed the maximum contribution derived from biodiesel based on the blend content and the maximum level allowed in Specification D 6751 and the contribution of the petroleum based diesel fuel.

X1.15 Other

X1.15.1 Microbial Contamination—Refer to Guide D 6469 for a discussion of this form of contamination.

X1.16 Oxidation Stability

X1.16.1 If the biodiesel is qualified under Table 1 of Specification D 6751 for oxidation stability, it may not be necessary to measure the oxidation stability of the blend. Existing data[5] indicates the oxidation stability of B6 to B20 should be over 6 h if the oxidation stability of the biodiesel is 3 h or higher at the time of blending.

X1.16.2 Special precautions may be necessary to eliminate falsely low readings using EN 14112 with biodiesel blends. The petroleum portion of the blend may affect tubing between the reaction vessel and the measuring vessel and the plastic seal on the top of the reaction vessel or condense in various parts of the test setup. Some of these parts may need to be replaced frequently, and all components should be thoroughly cleaned to prevent falsely low readings. Improvements to these parts and potential changes in the test method are currently being evaluated.

X1.17 Acid Number

X1.17.1 The acid number is used to determine the level of free fatty acids or processing acids that may be present in the biodiesel or diesel fuel oil when produced, or those which form upon aging. Biodiesel blends with a high acid number have been shown to increase fueling system deposits and may increase the likelihood for corrosion.

[5] McCormick, R. L., and Westbrook, S. R., "Empirical Study of the Stability of Biodiesel and Biodiesel Blends, Milestone Report," NREL/TP-540-41619, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado, May 2007. http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/41619.pdf.

X2. STORAGE AND THERMAL STABILITY OF B6 TO B20 BLENDS

X2.1 Scope

X2.1.1 This appendix provides guidance for consumers of B6 to B20 who may wish to store quantities of fuels for extended periods or use the fuel in severe service or high temperature applications. Fuels containing residual components are excluded. Consistently successful long-term fuel storage or use in severe applications requires attention to fuel selection, storage conditions, handling and monitoring of properties during storage and prior to use.

X2.1.2 Normally produced fuels have adequate stability properties to withstand normal storage and use without the formation of troublesome amounts of insoluble degradation products although data suggests some B6 to B20 blends may degrade faster than petrodiesel. Fuels that are to be stored for prolonged periods or used in severe applications should be selected to avoid formation of sediments or gums, high acid numbers, or high viscosity which can overload filters or plug injectors. Selection of these fuels should result from supplier-user discussions.

X2.1.3 These suggested practices are general in nature and should not be considered substitutes for any requirements imposed by the warranty of the distillate fuel equipment manufacturer or by federal, state, or local government regulations. Although they cannot replace a knowledge of local conditions or good engineering and scientific judgment, these suggested practices do provide guidance in developing an individual fuel management system for the B6 to B20 fuel user. They include suggestions in the operation and maintenance of existing fuel storage and handling facilities and for identifying where, when, and how fuel quality should be monitored or selected for storage or severe use.

X2.2 Definitions

X2.2.1 *bulk fuel*—fuel in the storage facility in quantities over 50 gal.

X2.2.2 *fuel contaminants*—foreign materials that make fuel less suitable or unsuitable for the intended use.

X2.2.2.1 *Discussion*

Fuel contaminants include materials introduced subsequent to the manufacture of fuel and fuel degradation products.

X2.2.3 *fuel-degradation products*—those materials that are formed in fuel during extended storage or exposure to high temperatures.

X2.2.3.1 *Discussion*—Insoluble degradation products may combine with other fuel contaminants to reinforce deleterious effects. Soluble degradation products (soluble gums) are less volatile than fuel and may carbonize to form deposits due to complex interactions and oxidation of small amounts of olefinic or sulfur-, oxygen-, or nitrogen-contaminating compounds present in fuels. The formation of degradation products may be catalyzed by dissolved metals, especially copper salts. When dissolved copper is present it can be deactivated with metal deactivator additives.

X2.2.4 *long-term storage*—storage of fuel for longer than 6 months after it is received by the user.

X2.2.5 *severe use*—use of the fuel in applications which may result in engines operating under high load conditions that may cause the fuel to be exposed to excessive heat.

X2.3 Fuel Selection

X2.3.1 Certain distilled refinery and biodiesel products are generally more suitable for long-term storage and severe service than others. The stability properties of B6 to B20 blends are highly dependent on the crude oil sources, severity of processing, use of additives and whether additional refinery treatment has been carried out.

X2.3.2 The composition and stability properties of B6 to B20 produced at specific refineries or blending locations may be different. Any special requirements of the user, such as long-term storage or severe service, should be discussed with the supplier.

X2.3.3 Blends of fuels from various sources may interact to give stability properties worse than expected based on the characteristics of the individual fuels.

X2.4 Fuel Additives

X2.4.1 Available fuel additives can improve the suitability of marginal fuels for long-term storage and thermal stability, but may be unsuccessful for fuels with markedly poor stability properties. Most additives should be added at the refinery or during the early weeks of storage to obtain maximum benefits.

X2.4.2 Biocides or biostats destroy or inhibit the growth of fungi and bacteria, which can grow at fuel-water interfaces to give high particulate concentrations in the fuel. Available biocides are soluble in both the fuel and water or in the water phase only.

X2.5 Tests for Fuel Quality

X2.5.1 At the time of manufacture, the storage stability of B6 to B20 may be assessed using Test Method EN 14112. Other tests methods are under development. However, these accelerated stability tests may not correlate well with field storage stability due to varying field conditions and to fuel composition.

X2.5.2 Performance criteria for accelerated stability tests that ensure satisfactory long-term storage of fuels have not been established.

X2.5.3 Test Method D 6468 provides an indication of thermal oxidative stability of middle distillate fuels when heated to temperatures near 150°C.

X2.6 Fuel Monitoring

X2.6.1 A plan for monitoring the quality of bulk fuel during prolonged storage is an integral part of a successful program. A plan to replace aged fuel with fresh product at established intervals is also desirable.

X2.6.2 Stored fuel should be periodically sampled and its quality assessed. Practice D 4057 provides guidance for sampling. Fuel contaminants and degradation products will usually settle to the bottom of a quiescent tank. A “Bottom” or