Automotive fuels - Diesel - Requirements and test methods

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 6 January 2022.

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European foreword

This document (EN 590:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 19 Gaseous and liquid fuels, lubricants and related products of petroleum, synthetic and biological origin, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2022.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.


This document has originally been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association [6].

Requirements following amendment 2003/17/EC [2], 2009/30/EC [3], 2011/63/EU [4] and 2014/77/EU [5] to the European Fuels Quality Directive 98/70/EC [1], are taken into account. Dates are included with all normative test method references for properties required by Annex II of the Fuels Quality Directive in order to comply with the requirements of the European Commission; with the accompanying assurance by CEN/TC 19 that any referenced updated versions will always give similar accuracy and the same or better precision (see [4]).

The marking at the pump of this product is in line with the requirements of the Fuels Quality Directive and the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive [7].

Further significant technical changes between this document and the previous edition are:

— Inclusion of the amended EN 14214 FAME specification.

— Update to the normative references towards undated versions where they don't concern requirements originating from European Directives (in line with decisions by CEN/TC 19 in coordination with the European Commission), and updating the effective publication dates where required.

— Introduction of the new section "Terms and Definitions".

— Correct use of the decimal point in limits has been implemented to align with test method reporting requirements (Rancimat by EN 15751) and the European Fuels Directive 98/70/EC [1], including subsequent Amendments [2], [3], [4] and [5] (distillation 95 % (V/V) recovered).

— Deletion of the Fuel Ignition Tester (EN 16144) as an alternative test method for cetane number determination due to its absence of use in the market. Whereas the BASF engine (EN 16906) and the ICN technique (EN 17155) have now been included as alternative methods for cetane number determination.

— Addition of micro-distillation (EN 17306) as an alternative test method to distillation by EN ISO 3405 and EN ISO 3924.

— Addition of automated method (EN ISO 22995) as an alternative test method to cloud point by EN ISO 3015.
— Addition of the Stabinger viscometer (ISO 23581) as an alternative test method to viscosity by EN ISO 3104.

— Addition of oxidation stability by rapid small scale oxidation method (EN 16091) as an alternative test method to oxidation stability by EN 15751 for diesel fuel containing FAME above 2.0 % (V/V).

— Deletion of Annex A and changes to 6.5.1 in relation to test method precision data for diesel fuel containing FAME.

— Update to the ‘workmanship clause’ in 6.5.3 to address the issue of abrasive wear of fuel injection equipment by hard particles in diesel fuel.

— Introduction of further clarification around the lubricity requirement in Table 1.

— Reduction of the minimum density limit for Grades D, E and F, moving the property from Table 1 to Table 2.

— Clarification of the dispute requirement concerning sulfur content in 6.7.3.

— Deletion of the allowance for cetane alternative methods in 6.7.4.

— Addition of 6.7.10 to address situations in which the test method includes a bias-correction to the dispute method.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.
1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and test methods for marketed and delivered automotive diesel fuel. It is applicable to automotive diesel fuel for use in diesel engine vehicles designed to run on automotive diesel fuel containing up to 7.0 % (V/V) Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME).

NOTE For the purposes of this document, the terms “% (m/m)” and “% (V/V)” are used to represent respectively the mass fraction and the volume fraction.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 116, Diesel and domestic heating fuels - Determination of cold filter plugging point - Stepwise cooling bath method

EN 12662, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of total contamination in middle distillates, diesel fuels and fatty acid methyl esters

EN 12916:2019, Petroleum products - Determination of aromatic hydrocarbon types in middle distillates - High performance liquid chromatography method with refractive index detection

EN 14078:2014, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) content in middle distillates - Infrared spectrometry method

EN 14214:2012+A2:2019, Liquid petroleum products - Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) for use in diesel engines and heating applications - Requirements and test methods

EN 14595:2014, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of ignition delay and derived cetane number (DCN) of middle distillate fuels by combustion in a constant volume chamber

EN 15195:2014, Automotive fuels - Fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) fuel and blends with diesel fuel - Determination of oxidation stability by accelerated oxidation method

EN 16091, Liquid petroleum products - Middle distillates and fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) fuels and blends - Determination of oxidation stability by rapid small scale oxidation method

EN 16329, Diesel and domestic heating fuels - Determination of cold filter plugging point - Linear cooling bath method

EN 16576:2014, Automotive fuels - Determination of manganese and iron content in diesel - Inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP OES) method

EN 16715:2015, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of ignition delay and derived cetane number (DCN) of middle distillate fuels - Ignition delay and combustion delay determination using a constant volume combustion chamber with direct fuel injection

EN 16906:2017, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of the ignition quality of diesel fuels - BASF engine method

EN 16942, Fuels - Identification of vehicle compatibility - Graphical expression for consumer information
EN 590:2022 (E)

EN 17155:2018, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of indicated cetane number (ICN) of middle distillate fuels - Primary reference fuels calibration method using a constant volume combustion chamber

EN 17306:2019, Liquid petroleum products - Determination of distillation characteristics at atmospheric pressure - Micro-distillation

EN ISO 2160, Petroleum products - Corrosiveness to copper - Copper strip test (ISO 2160)

EN ISO 2719, Determination of flash point - Pensky-Martens closed cup method (ISO 2719)

EN ISO 3015, Petroleum and related products from natural or synthetic sources - Determination of cloud point (ISO 3015)

EN ISO 3104, Petroleum products - Transparent and opaque liquids - Determination of kinematic viscosity and calculation of dynamic viscosity (ISO 3104)

EN ISO 3170, Petroleum liquids - Manual sampling (ISO 3170)

EN ISO 3171, Petroleum liquids - Automatic pipeline sampling (ISO 3171)

EN ISO 3405:2019, Petroleum and related products from natural or synthetic sources - Determination of distillation characteristics at atmospheric pressure (ISO 3405:2019)


EN ISO 4259-2, Petroleum and related products - Precision of measurement methods and results - Part 2: Interpretation and application of precision data in relation to methods of test (ISO 4259-2)

EN ISO 4264, Petroleum products - Calculation of cetane index of middle-distillate fuels by the four variable equation (ISO 4264)


EN ISO 6245, Petroleum products - Determination of ash (ISO 6245)

EN ISO 10370, Petroleum products - Determination of carbon residue - Micro method (ISO 10370)

EN ISO 12156-1, Diesel fuel - Assessment of lubricity using the high-frequency reciprocating rig (HFRR) - Part 1: Test method (ISO 12156-1)


EN ISO 12205, Petroleum products - Determination of the oxidation stability of middle-distillate fuels (ISO 12205)

EN ISO 12937, Petroleum products - Determination of water - Coulometric Karl Fischer titration method (ISO 12937)


ISO 23581, *Petroleum products and related products — Determination of kinematic viscosity — Method by Stabinger type viscometer*

3 Terms and Definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

4 Sampling

Samples shall be taken as described in EN ISO 3170 or EN ISO 3171 and/or in accordance with the requirements of national standards or regulations for the sampling of automotive diesel fuel. The national requirements shall be set out in detail or shall be referred to by reference in a National Annex to this document.

In view of the sensitivity of some of the test methods referred to in this document, particular attention shall be paid to compliance with any guidance on sampling containers which is included in the test method standard.

5 Pump marking

Information to be marked on dispensing pumps and nozzles used for delivering automotive diesel fuel, and the dimensions of the mark shall be in accordance with EN 16942.

Labelling shall be clearly visible, easily legible and displayed at any point where diesel with metallic additives is made available to consumers. The label shall contain: “Contains metallic additives” in the national language(s) and shall be laid down in the National Annex to this document.
6 Requirements and test methods

6.1 Dyes and markers

The use of dyes or markers is allowed.

6.2 Additives

6.2.1 General

In order to improve the performance quality, the use of additives is allowed. Suitable fuel additives without known harmful side-effects are recommended in the appropriate amount, to help to avoid deterioration of driveability and emissions control durability. Other technical means with equivalent effect may also be used.

NOTE Deposit forming tendency test methods suitable for routine control purposes have not yet been identified and developed.

6.2.2 Methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT)

When methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl (MMT) is used, a specific labelling is required (see also Clause 5). The presence of the MMT is limited via a manganese content limit as in Table 1.

6.3 Fatty acid methyl ester (FAME)

Diesel fuel may contain up to 7.0 % (V/V) of FAME complying with EN 14214:2012+A2:2019, in which case the climate dependent requirements set out in 5.4.2 of EN 14214:2012+A2:2019 do not apply.

NOTE 1 A suitable method for the separation and identification of FAME is given in EN 14331 [8].

Climate dependent requirements for FAME as a blending component for use in diesel fuel according to this document are set out in 5.4.3 of EN 14214:2012+A2:2019. The specific grades shall be specified on a national basis according to local climatic conditions and the FAME volume in the diesel fuel.

The finished blend of diesel fuel shall also comply with the climate dependent requirements set out in 6.6. of this document.

Cold flow additives, when used in FAME, should be specifically matched to the base diesel fuel and FAME quality to ensure correct performance consistent with the requirements set out in this document. The choice could result in incompatibility between the cold flow additives used in the FAME and the diesel fuel. The choice of cold flow additive technology should be a contractual matter between the fuel blender and the FAME supplier taking into account the climatic-dependent requirements of the finished diesel fuel.

NOTE 2 Cold flow requirements for FAME as a blend component in diesel fuel are set out in Tables 3a and 3b and the National Annex of EN 14214:2012+A2:2019, in order to control maximum content of saturated monoglycerides in the final EN 590 blend to ensure trouble-free operation. Work is on-going to identify a suitable performance test to control this aspect of low temperature performance.

In order to improve the oxidation stability of FAME, it is strongly recommended to add oxidation stability enhancing additives to FAME at the production stage and before storage, providing an oxidation stability similar to that obtained with 1 000 mg/kg of 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxytoluene (BHT, officially designated by IUPAC as 2,6-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-methylphenol).

The similar action may be read as providing oxidation stability performance at least equal to that obtained with 1 000 mg/kg of BHT.