

## **NATIONAL BIODIESEL BOARD FUEL QUALITY POLICY**

**Purpose:** The American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) is the recognized standard-setting body for fuels and additives in the United States. ASTM has adopted a specification for pure biodiesel (ASTM D 6751) and a specification for biodiesel blends containing between 6% and 20% biodiesel (ASTM D7467). ASTM also recognizes that blends as high as 5% biodiesel are allowable in ASTM D975 for diesel fuel and ASTM D396 for heating oil providing the biodiesel meets ASTM D6751. When biodiesel that meets its specification is properly blended into diesel fuel which meets its specification, and is handled according to proper fuel management techniques, the resulting fuel is a high quality, premium diesel fuel which has been shown to perform well in virtually any unmodified diesel engine. However, use of any fuel that does not meet its quality specifications could cause performance problems or equipment damage, and this includes biodiesel. The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) believes strongly that rigorous adherence to D6751 is important in order to protect consumers from unknowingly purchasing substandard fuel, in order to maintain the integrity of the nation's fuel supply, and in order to protect the reputation of biodiesel as a high quality, high performance fuel. Sale of off-spec fuel is usually a violation of federal and state law. Several federal and state government agencies are responsible for the regulation and enforcement of fuel quality in the United States. The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) is a non-profit trade association and does not have authority to regulate or enforce fuel quality. However, this "Fuel Quality Policy" outlines the measures that the NBB will take to enhance overall fuel quality in the industry.

**Government Adoption of ASTM D6751:** *ASTM D6751:* The National Biodiesel Board is a strong proponent of ASTM D6751. The National Biodiesel Board expects each of its producer Members to be dedicated to the consistent production of ASTM D6751 compliant B100. The National Biodiesel Board will continue to urge the adoption of ASTM D6751 by every appropriate level of federal, state, and local government as a legal requirement for the manufacture and sale of Biodiesel. **As to Member & Non-Member Producers:** The National Biodiesel Board will, upon receiving a complaint regarding fuel quality, offer the complainant all available information regarding fuel quality enforcement efforts by any applicable state or federal government agency.

**ASTM Standards for Biodiesel Blends.** ASTM has adopted ASTM D7467 for biodiesel blends containing between 6% and 20% biodiesel. ASTM also recognizes that blends as high as 5% biodiesel are allowable in ASTM D975 for diesel fuel and ASTM D396 for heating oil providing the biodiesel meets ASTM D6751. The National Biodiesel Board is fully supportive of these specifications acknowledging that biodiesel must meet specification ASTM D6751 prior to blending activities.

**BQ-9000 Certification.** The National Biodiesel Board created the National Biodiesel Accreditation Commission in 2000 and charged it with developing a certification program for quality biodiesel producers and marketers. The resulting certification program is BQ-9000. There are two certifications: *Certified Marketer* and *Accredited Producer*. In either case, the certified party must possess a Quality Manual, a Quality Control System, and employ best practices as required to assure the delivery of a quality product. NBB encourages all biodiesel producers and marketers to achieve and maintain approval under the BQ-9000 program.

**Government Enforcement:** NBB will encourage active enforcement of D6751 by the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Agriculture, and

individual state Weights and Measures Bureaus. In addition, NBB will actively investigate which of these agencies might adopt the most effective proactive, ongoing testing program for D6751 enforcement and support that effort. Many of these agencies have indicated that they will also respond appropriately to potential violations upon credible complaint.