TO: Dealer Principal / Executive Manager

Isuzu Commercial Truck of America, Inc. remains focused on providing customers with products that offer the lowest cost of ownership in the market. This is demonstrated with the offering of our new REACH van, NPR ECO-MAX, and gasoline-powered N-Series all with powertrains capable of operating on alternative fuels. One example is Isuzu's N-Series diesel engines being capable of operating on biodiesel. Over the past months, there have been numerous articles about Isuzu, the strength of our product offerings, and our capability of offering vehicles operating on alternative fuels. In a recent article released by the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), their communication focused on the capability of using a biodiesel blend of B20 on our 2011 model year N-Series diesel trucks. While this statement is correct, further clarification and approval is needed on each application before a customer can begin using B20 fuel in an Isuzu N-Series diesel engine.

Today, Isuzu diesel engines operate using ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD). For customers that wish to use biodiesel, Isuzu allows use of B5 blend biodiesel as long as the fuel meets ASTM D975 and D6751, however for biodiesel blends greater than B5, additional information is required by ICTA product planning before the customer can begin operating using B20. For your reference the following is an excerpt from The Isuzu Owners Manual…..

It is acceptable to use diesel fuel containing up to 5% biodiesel (B5), but the final blended fuel must meet the same specification, ASTM D 975 (Grade Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel), as other fuels used in your vehicle, and the biodiesel used for making this fuel must meet the latest version of ASTM specification D 6751. Biodiesel is produced from vegetable oils or animal fat that have been esterified to reduce the possibility of damage to your fuel system and engine. The use of unesterified bio-oils blended into diesel fuel at any concentration is not approved by Isuzu and could damage your fuel system and engine.

Biodiesel blends between B6 and B20 could cause damage to your engine and fuel system if these fuels do not meet strict quality standards. ASTM D7467 has been established to specify the properties of B6 to B20 biodiesel blends. However, field quality surveys have shown that many commercially available B6 to B20 blends do not meet this standard and in fact can be very damaging to your engine. If you plan to use biodiesel grades between B6 and B20, please contact your Isuzu dealer.

Approvals for biodiesel blends between B6-B20 must be obtained by contacting ICTA Product Planning.

Sincerely,

Shaun Skinner
Executive Vice President and General Manager
Isuzu Commercial Truck of America, Inc.