

The Minnesota B5 Law

Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning in May of 2009, Minnesota fuel providers began blending five percent biodiesel into nearly all diesel fuel sold throughout the state. Following are questions diesel vehicle and equipment users may think about when using biodiesel blends.

1. **Does biodiesel affect how my engine operates?**

Biodiesel blends of 20 percent (B20) or less should not change the engine performance in a noticeable way. Biodiesel typically has a higher cetane number and increased lubricity compared to petroleum diesel fuel. However, from an operational perspective, with a five percent blend of biodiesel fuel (B5) you will notice no difference in the performance of your engine.

2. **Does using biodiesel void my vehicle warranty?**

Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) provide material and workmanship warranties on the vehicles and engines they build. They **do not** warranty failures caused by fuel. As is the case with petroleum diesel, biodiesel suppliers are responsible for fuel quality. All OEMs allow the use of B5. Most major engine companies have stated formally that the use of blends up to B20 will not void their parts and workmanship warranties. Federal law prohibits the voiding of a warranty simply because biodiesel was used. For OEM statements on vehicle warranties visit <http://www.biodiesel.org/resources/oems/>

3. **Are there standards or specifications for biodiesel fuel?**

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has a biodiesel blend stock standard (ASTM D6751) that describes minimum standards for biodiesel fuel properties. All biodiesel fuel sold, including biodiesel fuel used for blending, must meet this standard. When mixed with diesel, biodiesel blends up to 5% must meet ASTM D975, and blends of biodiesel from B6 through B20 must meet ASTM D7467.

4. **Does biodiesel blended fuel require special dispensing equipment?**

Dispensing equipment does not need to be modified for B5. Retailers can use their existing petroleum diesel fuel dispensing equipment for B5.

5. **What cold weather precautions need to be taken when using B5?**

B5 will behave like petroleum diesel fuel and you should continue your normal winter fueling practices when using it. Blends of 20% and higher may see an increase of the cold flow properties (cold filter plugging point, cloud point, pour point) at 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit, but this can be avoided with simple precautions.

6. **Is there enough supply of biodiesel fuel to meet the blending mandate?**

Approximately 45 million gallons of biodiesel fuel are needed to meet the state B5 requirement. Actual statewide production capacity is 63 million gallons. Many neighboring states also produce biodiesel. No supply concerns are expected.

7. **Where will the fuel blending occur and who is responsible for proper blending?**

Most blending will take place at the petroleum refinery or at other fuel terminals. Terminals have invested in sophisticated blending equipment to ensure proper blending of fuel. No issues related to the B5 blend are expected.

8. What differences are there with a B5 blend?

B5 offers many benefits with no noticeable shortcomings. Adding biodiesel improves the lubricity properties of the fuel. This added lubricity will help protect equipment by preventing wear. Though a reduction in miles per gallon (MPG) may be seen in much higher blends of biodiesel, B5 will show no loss. From an operational point of view, B5 runs just like the petroleum diesel used in other states, but with [fewer air emissions](#).

9. Are there costs difference?

There are costs associated with blending any fuel. However, the use of B5 hasn't had a significant impact on fuel pricing. B5 fuel pricing remains dominated by the cost of petroleum fuel.

10. Where can I get more information concerning biodiesel and using biodiesel in my vehicle?

University of Minnesota Center for Diesel Research Biodiesel Helpline
1-800-929-3437

Biodiesel Handling & Use Guide
<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy09osti/43672.pdf>

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Alternative Fuels Data Center
www.afdc.energy.gov

National Biodiesel Board
www.nbb.org/

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
www.mda.state.mn.us/

Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council
www.mnsoybean.org

American Lung Association in Minnesota
www.CleanAirChoice.org