



Biodiesel Update

BIODIESEL APPROVED FOR CASE IH ENGINES

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We're hearing more about biodiesel with the high cost of fuel and the increasing interest in alternative energy sources.

Biodiesel is fuel made from vegetable-based oils or animal fats. Most commonly, it's derived from soybeans and other oil seeds, and recycled cooking oil. Biodiesel is commonly offered in blends with petroleum diesel fuel ranging from "B5" which refers to a blend having 5% biodiesel and 95% petroleum diesel to "B20" (20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel fuel).

Currently, Case IH approves biodiesel blends up to B5 for use in its engines.

Biodiesel blends greater than B5 to B20 are neither approved nor disapproved for Case IH engines except for electronically controlled engines using high-pressure common rail fuel systems. On all other CNH engines, biodiesel blends up to B20 may be used providing the following handling and maintenance items are followed (blends greater than B20 are not recommended):

1. Purchase biodiesel blends from a trusted source that understands and maintains product quality. It is preferable to purchase biodiesel preblended from the fuel supplier rather than mixing on-site.
2. Apply good fuel handling practices. Do not allow water to get into the fuel supply. Keep fuel tanks topped off to minimize condensation in the tank. Drain water drains on engine-mounted fuel filters at least weekly.
3. Check engine oil daily to watch for signs of fuel dilution into the oil. It's possible for biodiesel blends to deteriorate fuel seals and allow fuel to enter the engine oil sump.
4. Avoid storing biodiesel blends longer than three months, either in vehicle tanks or on-site tanks, due to stability issues. If biodiesel-fueled equipment is to be stored, run the engine on pure petroleum diesel fuel for at least 30 minutes to flush the biodiesel blend out of the fuel system.

prior to storage.

5. Biodiesel blends are not recommended for use in extreme cold weather. Rather, a blend of #1 and #2 conventional diesel fuel should be used.
6. The use of an algaecide is recommended during the warm spring and summer months to avoid algae growth in the fuel system.
7. Biodiesel blends can loosen rust and other particles that may otherwise adhere to the insides of vehicle and on-site tanks. Be prepared to change fuel filters once or twice between the normal filter change intervals until the system gets cleaned.
8. Biodiesel blends can damage paint. Spills must be cleaned up immediately to avoid damaging the machine's finish and appearance.

Biodiesel has several good qualities. It is an excellent lubricant. It burns more cleanly with less particulate and smoke emissions compared to conventional diesel fuel. Also, biodiesel mixes easily with conventional diesel fuel and will not separate once it's mixed.