

Fuel Quality Update

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EnviroFuels reports on current fuel quality issues that have negatively impacted operations of our customers, potential customers, and industry contacts. Periodically, EnviroFuels sends out updates regarding fuel quality issues from the field to inform end users of potential problems and solutions.

Fuel Quality Update

In the previous issue of Fuel Quality Update, EnviroFuels reported on three recent operational problems from the field caused by bacterial and fungal growth in diesel fuel. These problems included fuel filter plugging and fuel injector fouling. It is also possible that waste products from certain varieties of microorganisms are acidic and can cause corrosion problems.

In this issue, information is provided on how to diagnose and treat bacterial or microbial growth in diesel fuel and where to find additional information on the subject.

Testing for Microorganisms in Fuel

Many companies offer simple kits to test for the presence of bacteria or fungi in diesel fuel. These tests usually require adding a sample of diesel fuel to a container with a media that reacts with bacteria or fungi. If microorganisms are present in the diesel fuel, the media in the container changes color. Other tests involve a dip stick apparatus similar to a litmus test. Results may be ready as soon as a day after sampling. Some tests are simple and safe enough to perform in the field.

Getting Rid of Microorganisms in Fuel

Water in diesel fuel, while not the sole contributing factor, is one of the major risk factors for bacterial or microbial growth in diesel fuel. The presence of water in diesel fuel can come from condensation, leaks, increased dissolved water in ULSD (Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel) fuel, or poor fuel handling procedures.

Water accumulation in fuel tanks should be drained regularly, if feasible, to decrease the opportunity for bacterial/microbial growth in diesel fuel. Maintaining a tank cleaning schedule is also beneficial.

Should a problem from bacterial/microbial growth persist, a more aggressive treatment with a biocide may be warranted. EnviroFuels has assisted several customers in the past by recommending biocide treatments for their fuel tanks. Typical biocides and EnviroFuels DFC (Diesel Fuel Catalyzer) can be complimentary products in improving fuel quality.

For assistance or recommendations on fuel testing kits or diesel fuel treatment, please contact EnviroFuels.

More Information

Diesel Fuel FAQ from Exxon

http://www.exxon.com/USA-English/GFM/Products_Services/Fuels/Diesel_Fuels_FAQ.asp

EnviroFuels believes the above sites provide beneficial information regarding diesel fuel and fuel quality. EnviroFuels does not necessarily endorse these companies, organizations, or products, however.

EnviroFuels

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