



Biodiesel Fact Sheet – Fuel Quality and Engine Warranty

- Engine manufacturer warranties cover “materials and workmanship” which means the physical parts of the engine and their assembly. They do not warranty fuel which should be the responsibility of the fuel supplier. The important question is whether engine manufacturers will void their engine warranty simply because biodiesel was used.
- Major engine manufacturers in North America have indicated that the use of blends up to B5 (5% biodiesel) will not void their engine warranties. Some manufacturers will warranty their engines up to B20 (20% biodiesel). For an updated but non-exhaustive list of current engine manufacturer recommendations, see: <http://www.biodiesel.org/resources/oems/>.
- Many companies have stated that biodiesel fuel must meet some form of standard before they will support its use in their engine. This makes fuel quality an important issue with regard to engine warranties.
- Fuel suppliers in Manitoba follow the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) specification for biodiesel blends of 1% to 5%. This standard is consistent with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) specifications for biodiesel blends while allowing for the flexibility to blend seasonal diesel that will continue to perform in Canada’s colder climates.
- Manitoba requires that all biodiesel produced for sale as a fuel in the province meets the ASTM standard for pure biodiesel (B100). Any commercial producer in the province must obtain a license and the Manitoba government has the authority to monitor biodiesel in the provincial fuel system.
- As long as the biodiesel used for blending meets ASTM D6751 standards, low-level biodiesel blends such as B2 and B5 can be used safely in any compression-ignition engine designed to be operated on diesel fuel. This can include light-duty and heavy-duty diesel cars and trucks, tractors, boats, and electrical generators.¹
- The position of engine manufacturers with respect to warranty is not anticipated to change significantly in regards to newer diesel engines that have emissions control systems designed to meet government emission regulations.
- Users should consult their vehicle and engine warranty statements when using higher biodiesel blends.
- Manitoba will consider moving toward a 5% mandate once there is a Canadian fuel standard in place for biodiesel blends above B5, and diesel engine manufacturers warranty the use of blends above that level. We are currently working with the agency that develops Canadian fuel standards to establish a standard for biodiesel blends above B5.

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, Alternative & Advanced Fuels, http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/fuels/biodiesel_blends.html, accessed on 10/09/09.