

**NEN**

to whom it may concern

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Netherlands Standardization Institute

**SUBJECT**

CEN/TC 19 explanation on total contamination test applicability for FAME

**YOUR REFERENCE**

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**OUR REFERENCE**

TC192012-08\_JWG1

**DATE**

2012-03-08

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Total contamination is one of the most important parameters of the European standards for automotive diesel (EN 590) and Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME, also called biodiesel - EN 14214).

EN 12662, the European test method for total contamination, was revised in 2008 in order to improve the precision of this method. Significant changes were applied to the test procedure.

At that time, Ring tests had proven that due to these changes EN 12662:2008 is not suitable for FAME. Therefore, Table 1 of EN 14214 states as footnote i: "The test method developed for diesel fuel may show analytical problems when applied to FAME. A test method more suitable for arbitration in disputes is under development by CEN".

Due to the fact that essential technical details were not considered in the test procedure - despite objections - the test method stipulated in this document cannot be used for the determination of the total contamination, if its determination is intended for any legal action.

Current RR tests executed through CEN/TC 19/WG 24 prove that the application range fixed in the document (from about 6 mg/kg to 30 mg/kg) cannot be met, since the test method can only be applied from about 14 mg/kg. The use for pure FAME of EN 12662 in its current state is currently not possible.

Additional analytical problems occur - for example - when purchasing the stipulated filters and for some other analytical details like washing the filters. Therefore, it is recommended not to use this test method in case of dispute.

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Also, if used in daily routine analysis it should only be applied with great care until CEN will have actually improved those deficits.

For the determination of the total contamination of FAME, CEN/TC 19/JWG1, the CEN expert group for Biodiesel test methods, strongly recommends to use EN 12662:1998 (the previous version) in order to generate valid test results.

EN 12662:2008 is currently under revision. Significant changes have been implemented for testing FAME. As soon as EN 12662 is revised the conclusion expressed in this letter will be revoked.

Kind regards,

On behalf of CEN/TC 19/JWG1 - Vegetable fats and oils and their by-products for use in automotive fuels

Dr Juergen Fischer  
Convenor

CEN/TC 19

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