FUEL LABELLING FOR ROAD VEHICLES

INFORMATION FOR OPERATORS

GENERAL BACKGROUND

European Union (EU) Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (the 'co-legislators') addresses the EU-wide deployment of alternative fuel infrastructure. This Directive addresses Europe's future needs for providing wider access to 'alternative fuels' and includes a requirement for new vehicles and all fuel pumps/recharging stations to be labelled in order to enable vehicle drivers to better select the fuel that their vehicle can properly use.

Though this information is currently provided in all vehicle handbooks and around the fuel filler cap/flap of most vehicles, it was so far not harmonised across Europe.

The Directive provides for the deployment of a new unique and harmonised set of fuel labels. These labels will appear:

- On newly produced vehicles in the immediate proximity of the fuel filler flap/cap, and in the vehicle owner's manual. In the case of newer vehicles, they may also appear in the electronic handbook available via a vehicle's infotainment centre;
- At all public refuelling stations on the fuel-dispensing unit, and on the filler nozzle of the fuel dispenser;
- At vehicle dealerships.

WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THESE NEW LABELS?

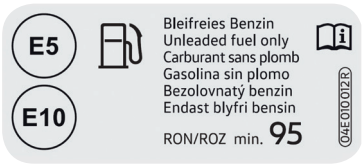
A specific task force under the CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) Technical Committee 441 (TC441) worked on the design and format of new labels to comply with the general prescriptions of Directive 2014/94/EU.

The participants of the task force included experts from the EU vehicle and fuel industries, NGOs representing consumers, national standard bodies, a number of EU governments and the European Commission. Standard EN16942 describes the technical design and size of the new labels.

WHICH VEHICLES ARE CONCERNED BY THIS LABELLING REQUIREMENT?

The labels will appear on the following newly produced vehicles:

- Mopeds, motorcycles, tricycles and quadricycles;
- Passenger cars;
- Light commercial vehicles;
- Heavy-duty commercial vehicles;
- Buses and coaches.



ARE ALL VEHICLES CONCERNED?

The legislation requires the labels only for new vehicles placed on the market for the first time or registered as of 12 October 2018.
Vehicle manufacturers do not recommend fitting the labels to older vehicles. Please contact your local dealer if you need advice on which fuel is recommended for use in your vehicle.

WHEN WILL THESE LABELS BE VISIBLE IN THE EU MEMBER STATES?

The label will be placed on newly-produced vehicles and on petrol-type, diesel-type, hydrogen (H2), compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling pumps in all European Union public fuel filling stations, in a clear and visible manner for consumers, as of 12 October 2018.
Since this is a compliance date, vehicle manufacturers and filling station operators will start to introduce these labels over a transitional period prior to that date. Some vehicle manufacturers have already started adding the labels on recently introduced models, others will start to introduce the labels on their vehicles as we move forward.
Operators of public refuelling stations will also plan to add the labels to fuel pumps towards that date.

WHERE TO FIND THE LABELS ON VEHICLES?

The labels are visible on newly produced vehicles in the immediate proximity of the fuel filler flap/cap.
Information on fuel compatibility and related labels will also be found in the vehicle owner's manual.

WHERE TO FIND THE LABELS AT REFUELLING POINTS?

The labels are placed on the fuel nozzle and the body of the fuel dispenser. The labels on the nozzle and the dispenser are of the same design as those found on the vehicles and in the vehicle manual – but of a different minimum size. Additional information may be included on the label at refuelling points, according to national requirements and in the local language.

HOW DO THE LABELS WORK?

The label is simply a visual tool to help consumers verify that they correctly select the appropriate fuel for their vehicle. The consumer needs to match the label of their vehicle with the corresponding label on the fuel pump.

WHAT DO THE LABELS LOOK LIKE?

There are specific label designs for petrol – type fuels, diesel-type fuels, and gaseous-type fuels (e.g. CNG, LNG, LPG and hydrogen):

PETROL TYPE OF FUEL

E5 E10 E85

DIESEL TYPE OF FUEL

B7 B10 XTL

GASEOUS FUEL

H2 CNG LPG LNG

WHAT IS THE ACTUAL MEANING OF THE LABEL?

The fuel labels consist of:
(a) A unique identifying shape for the type of fuel;
(b) Information inside the identifying shape on the maximum biofuel content in the fuel that is recommended for use by the vehicle that is equipped with the new label.
It was decided to keep the shapes as well as the information inside the shape as simple as possible. Therefore, CEN standard EN16942 adopted:

- **A CIRCLE FOR PETROL.** The information inside the shape on the bio-content of petrol is designated as “Exx”. “E” stands for ‘ethanol’ and “xx” is the maximum amount of ethanol that the vehicle is recommended to use and that would be correspondingly available at the fuel filler pump. In the above figure, “E5” means the vehicle can use petrol containing up to 5% ethanol, and “E10” means the vehicle can use petrol containing up to 10% ethanol. The “E” for “ethanol” is a ‘short-hand’ way of showing the petrol can contain ethanol and/or other oxygenates up to a maximum amount.

- **A SQUARE FOR DIESEL.** The information inside the shape on the bio-content of diesel is designated as “Bxx”. “B” stands for bio-diesel and ‘xx’ is the maximum amount of bio-diesel the vehicle is recommended to use and would be correspondingly available at the fuel filler pump. In the above figure, “B7” means the vehicle can use diesel containing up to 7% bio-diesel, and “B10” means the vehicle can use diesel containing up to 10% bio-diesel. The “B” for “bio-diesel” is a ‘short-hand’ way of showing the diesel can contain bio-diesel in the form of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) up to a maximum percentage as indicated by the associated figure.

- **A SQUARE IS ALSO USED FOR “XTL”** which is a type of paraffinic diesel fuel manufactured from renewable or fossil material that provides a diesel fuel by synthesis or hydrotreatment that is quite similar in composition to traditional fossil diesel fuel. The applicable CEN standard for XTL is EN15940. Here, “XTL” means a paraffinic diesel fuel used a neat fuel. The standard EN15940 allows the incorporation of up to 7% fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) into a paraffinic diesel fuel.

- **A DIAMOND FOR GASEOUS FUELS.** The information inside the shape will indicate if the vehicle can be refilled with hydrogen (“H2”), compressed natural gas (“CNG”), liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) or liquefied petroleum gas (“LPG”).

ARE THE LABELS USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN FUEL-VEHICLE COMPATIBILITY VERIFICATION?

Member states can opt to provide additional consumer information related to the label according a standardised design. This optional consumer information is only displayed on a refuelling pump.

WHAT ABOUT ELECTRICALLY CHARGEABLE VEHICLES OR VEHICLES THAT ARE ONLY POWERED BY ELECTRICITY?

A CEN standard is in preparation for labels applicable to electric vehicles and recharging points.
It is expected that a similar communication for electric vehicles and recharging points will be made public in due time.

WHAT IS THE ACTUAL MEANING OF THE LABEL?

ON NEW VEHICLES
(at proximity of fuel flap/cap)

Size:
13mm diameter minimum

IN THE OWNER'S MANUAL

E10 B7 H2

AT FUELLING STATIONS
(on the fuel-dispensing unit and on the filler nozzle of the fuel dispenser)

Size:
13 mm diameter minimum for the nozzle and 30 mm diameter minimum for the fuel-dispensing unit

E10 B7 H2

AT DEALERSHIPS

FUEL LABELLING FOR ROAD VEHICLES
information for consumers

GENERAL INFORMATION

In order to help consumers select the appropriate fuel for their vehicles throughout Europe, the European Union has agreed new labelling requirements for newly produced vehicles and fuel filling stations. As of October 2018, a new unique and harmonised set of fuel labels will appear across Europe.

This label will be placed:
- On newly-produced vehicles, in the immediate proximity of the fuel filler flap/cap;
- In the vehicle owner's manual. In the case of newer vehicles, they may also appear in the electronic handbook available via a vehicle's infotainment centre;
- At all public refuelling stations on the fuel-dispensing unit and on the filler nozzle of the fuel dispenser;
- At vehicle dealerships.

WHICH VEHICLES ARE CONCERNED BY THIS LABELLING REQUIREMENT?

When it comes to road vehicles, the labels will appear on newly produced:
- Mopeds, motorcycles, tricycles and quadricycles;
- Passenger cars;
- Light commercial vehicles;
- Heavy-duty commercial vehicles;
- Buses and coaches.

DIESEL/GAZOLE

IN WHICH COUNTRIES WILL THESE LABELS BE VISIBLE?

The new labels will start to appear in all 28 European Union member states, EEA countries (i.e. Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) and also Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey, who are CEN members so should also apply the CEN standards.

WHAT ABOUT THE UK AFTER BREXIT?

It is up to the UK to decide the way in which EU rules will apply after Brexit but new vehicles will have the labels fitted on the production line so vehicles entering the UK market will continue to have the labels.
We therefore assume that all public filling stations in the UK will also have the labels.

This document has been prepared by ACEA, ACEM, ECFD, FuelsEurope and UPEI, the organisations representing European vehicle manufacturers (powered two-wheelers, cars, vans and heavy-duty vehicles) and the European refining and downstream fuel supply sectors. The information contained in this document is subject to the specific national laws implementing Directive 2014/94/EU in each member state of the EU.

ACEA European Automobile Manufacturers Association
acem The Motorcycle Industry In Europe
ECFD European Confederation of Fuel Distributors
FuelsEurope REFINING PRODUCTS FOR OUR EVERYDAY LIFE
UPEI THE VOICE OF EUROPE'S INDEPENDENT FUEL SUPPLIERS