



Local Law 43 / 2010 as Amended by Local Law 119 / 2016

Introduction

The environmental and public health benefits of blending biodiesel into heating oil are substantial. Unlike petroleum diesel, biodiesel is non-toxic and biodegradable, making it less of a threat to human health and the environment than petroleum-based fuels in instances of spills, and other direct exposure scenarios. Blending biodiesel into home heating oil leads to reductions in emissions, like particulate matter (PM), sulfates and air toxics that are harmful to public health, reductions in lifecycle carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, reductions in agricultural and food waste, and increased sustainability in fuel production practices.

Biodiesel is a blend stock commodity primarily used as a value-added blending component with diesel fuel. Biofuels are a renewable energy source derived from organic material either directly from plants, or indirectly from agricultural, commercial, domestic, and industrial wastes. Over the past decade, public policy at the federal level, as well as in some states, is requiring the use of biofuels to displace petroleum-based fossil fuels as a way to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to enhance energy security by reducing dependence on foreign oil.

Laws and Regulations:

Effective in 2012, New York City local law has required all heating oil dealers in the city to sell a B2 biodiesel blend in place of traditional heating oil. We expect this trend to continue as evidenced by the introduction of a proposed change to local laws (LL43/2010 and amended by LL 119/2016), that would increase the requirement in heating oil from B2 to B5 for all buildings in New York City by October 1, 2017, and with the potential to increase the percentage blended over the next 20 years.

§ 3. Subdivision (h) of Section 24-168.1 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, as amended by local law number 38 for the year 2015, is amended to read as follows: (h) The Commissioner shall have the authority to sample, test and analyze heating oil supplied to buildings in the city to determine compliance with this section.

% Bio-Diesel Blend in Heating Oil Program:

The laboratory is determining the level of % Bio-Diesel in heating oil collected from the buildings storage oil tanks, major oil companies' terminals, and oil trucks delivering oil to

residential and commercial buildings. If a sample result is found to be below the regulated % Bio-Diesel Blend levels in heating oil, then summonses are issued by the Bureau of Environmental Compliance's (BEC) Enforcement group.

Data Discussion:

July 1st, 2017 to June 30, 2018 BEC's Enforcement Inspectors have collected oil samples totaling 772 samples from buildings, 4 samples from delivery trucks, and 1 sample from the terminal, totaling 777 samples, an increase of 25% from the samples collected last year. Out of the 777 samples that were analyzed, no corrective measures were necessary by BEC's Enforcement Unit. All 777 samples complied with Subdivision (h) of Section 24-168.1 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, as amended by local law number 38. In January of 2018, BEC created a new unit to focus on collecting oil samples from burners.