



Press Release

Change to Low Sulphur Diesel Fuel

The Government has approved a change in the country's Diesel Fuel specification from the current High (5000 parts per million 'ppm') Sulphur Diesel Fuel to a Low (500 ppm) Sulphur Diesel Fuel. The change in the Diesel specification will be effective from mid-January 2013 when the first cargo of the Low Sulphur Diesel Fuel will be delivered to Samoa.

The decision to change the Diesel specification to Low Sulphur Diesel follows Government's review of the environmental issues associated with sulphur in Diesel and changes that are occurring in the fuel supply chain within the Pacific region.

Reducing the Sulphur content in Diesel is recognised world-wide as an important step in improving air quality by reducing the ultra-fine particles from diesel engine exhausts and in reducing Sulphur Dioxide gas emissions which contribute to acid rain. Europe, the USA, Australia and New Zealand have progressively reduced the Sulphur content in Diesel and this trend is now occurring in the South Pacific with the Governments in PNG, Fiji and the French territories all reducing the Sulphur content in Diesel sold in their countries.

The reduced demand for High Sulphur Diesel has also resulted in the Singapore refineries reducing the number of daily 'trades' they make which has in turn led to the product being delisted by Platts from 2nd January 2013 meaning no daily prices will be published.

The following Questions and Answers are provided to Diesel Consumers to enable them to assess the impact of the change in specification, which it will be noted are minor in nature.

For any further information please contact the Energy Policy Coordination and Management Division thru telephone 34341 or 34403 or email: energy@mof.gov.ws

Lavea Tupa'imatuna Iulai Lavea
Chief Executive Officer

Questions and Answers relating to the Change in Diesel specification from 5000 ppm Sulphur to 500 ppm Sulphur

Q. Can I mix the new fuel in my storage tanks with the old fuel?

A. Yes, there is no issue in mixing the different sulphur levels and using the fuel in vehicles that are currently running on the 5000 ppm sulphur

Q. Will this Low-Sulphur Diesel cost more?

A. Historically Low-Sulphur Diesel has cost slightly more (1-2 sene per litre) than High-Sulphur Diesel. As High-Sulphur Diesel will no longer being traded in Singapore there will be no prices quoted and therefore a direct comparison cannot be made in the future.

Q. Will I notice any performance difference?

A. In all probability no, though there may not be as much black smoke emissions

Q. What other changes have been made to the Diesel?

A. Other than reducing Sulphur, none

Q. Do I need to change the engine lubricant I use?

A. You should refer to the vehicle / engine manufacturer for their advice.

Q. Is the 500 ppm fuel ultra-low sulphur?

A. No it is low sulphur, ultra-low is 10 ppm sulphur.

Q. When will Samoa go to 10 ppm Ultra-Low Sulphur Diesel?

A. There are no plans to move to the Ultra-Low Sulphur Diesel.

Q. Why has Samoa not made the change to Low-Sulphur Diesel earlier?

A. There has been ongoing analysis over the past few years and given Samoa's population density and position in the supply chain there has been no imperative for the change.