

New Rebated Fuel Marker

The UK and Ireland governments are to bring in a new product to mark rebated fuels, including the off-road diesel and gas oil used for mobile and stationary diesel generator sets, commonly known in the UK as 'red diesel'. This is a move that will boost both countries' fight against illegal fuel laundering.

The marker will help HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Irish Revenue Commissioners tackle the criminal market in off-road diesel, marked with a red dye in the UK and green in Ireland, and also kerosene primarily used for heating oil. Excise duty on rebated diesel is charged at a lower rate than standard fuel duty.

The new marker will make rebated fuel much harder for fraudsters to 'launder' (i.e. remove the marker from it) and sell on at a profit.

The implementation date for the new fuel marker will be 1st April 2015, when all rebated fuel supplied will have to contain the new mix of markers.

FAQs

Q. What colour is the new marker?

A. The new marker does not have any colour and is added in addition to the current markers. There will be no change of colour. Specialised equipment is required to confirm the presence of the new marker.

Q. Can fuel with the new marker and fuel with the previous markers only be mixed?

A. Yes

Q. What does the new marker consist of?

A. The exact formation is secret but it only consists of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. It does not contain any halogens or metals.

Q. Can the new marker be used with bio-fuels?

A. The manufacturer expects it to be fully compatible with all fuels containing ethanol or biodiesel

Q. Does the new marker affect engine emissions?

A. The manufacturer has conducted tests and found no change in engine emissions