

## Consumer Confidence

Fuel consumers in Washington are protected under the Motor Fuel Quality Act (RCW 19.112) and the Weights and Measures Act (RCW 19.94). These laws regulate the fuel industry to ensure consumers are getting the quality and quantity of fuel they purchase.

WSDA's mission is to promote equity in the marketplace so that consumers are protected



and businesses are competing fairly. We accomplish this mission by investigating complaints, inspecting fuel dispensers,

verifying pricing and evaluating the quality of motor fuel.

## Can biofuels be used in all vehicle engines?

- Gasoline containing up to 10 percent ethanol works **in any gasoline vehicle** with no modifications.
- Gasoline containing up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) is approved for use in **2001 and newer passenger vehicles**.
- Gasoline containing greater than 10 percent ethanol, such as E15 and E85, works **in any flex fuel vehicle**.
- Diesel containing up to five percent biodiesel can be used **in any diesel engine**. B5 biodiesel meets the same ASTM quality requirements as diesel.
- Biodiesel blends greater than 5% can be used **in many diesel engines** with no modification. Consult the vehicle's operating manual and warranties. Biodiesel has a solvent effect and, when first used, it may release deposits accumulated from previous diesel fuel use. More frequent fuel filter changes may be needed initially.

## How does WSDA ensure fuel quality?

WSDA uses nationally recognized fuel quality standards such as the ASTM and NIST.

- <http://www.astm.org>
- <http://www.nist.gov>

WSDA adopts standards specified in NIST Handbook 130 and ASTM standards. See WAC 16-662 for the most current requirements.

WSDA performs random biofuel testing, field assessment of fuels, and sampling throughout the fuel distribution system.

WSDA checks blend percentage labeling and tests for the accuracy of the blend represented. Accurate dispenser labeling enables consumers to make informed decisions.

## Where does WSDA test biofuels?

To help us ensure consistency in the biofuel industry, we perform fuel testing and audits at the following fuel distribution levels:

- Producers
- Marketers/distributors
- Retailers

### *Contact:*

**Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Weights and Measures Program**

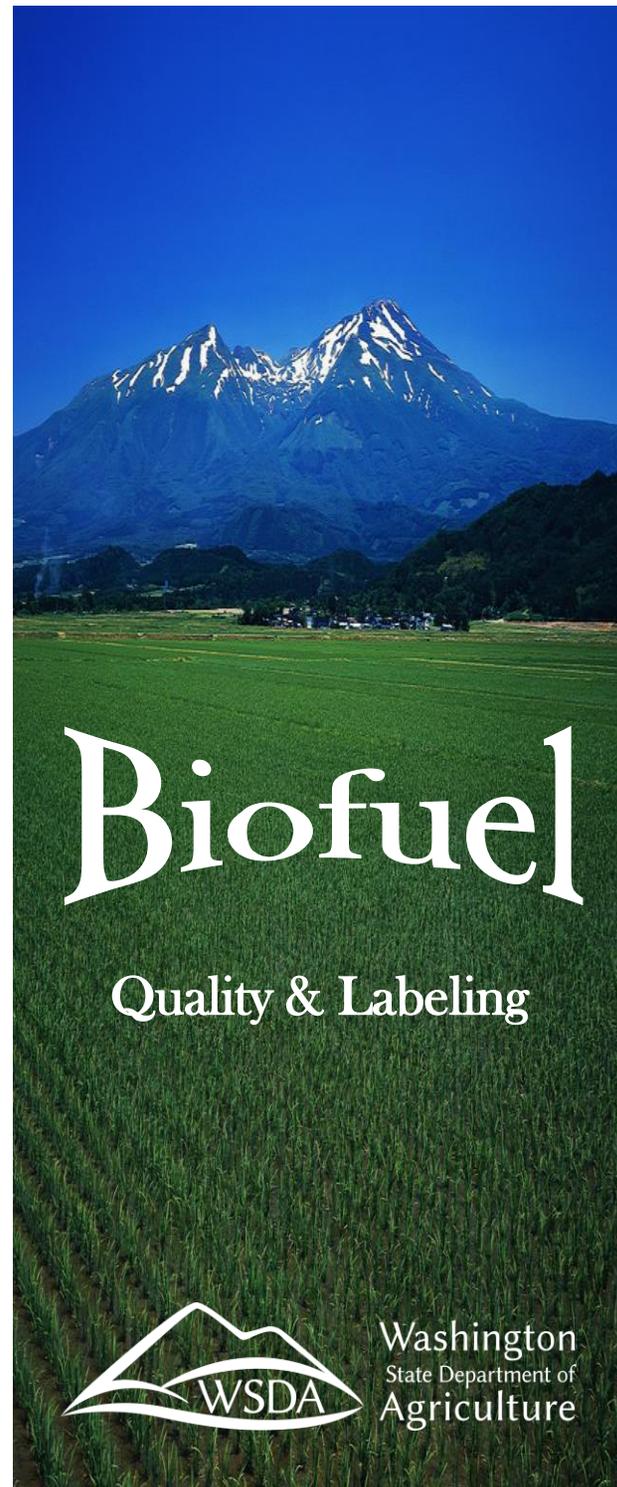
PO Box 42560, Olympia WA 98504-2560  
(360) 902-2035

<http://agr.wa.gov/wm>

To file a fuel quality complaint, e-mail us at:  
[wtsmeasures@agr.wa.gov](mailto:wtsmeasures@agr.wa.gov)

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Do you need this publication in an alternative format? Contact WSDA at (360) 902-1976 or TTY Relay (800) 833-6388



## Biofuel Quality Standards

All fuel sold in Washington must meet state fuel quality standards. Washington State has adopted the standards for uniform regulation of engine fuels developed by ASTM, the national voluntary standards organization. See WAC 16-662 for the most current requirements.

### Gasoline-Ethanol Standards

- Gasoline-ethanol blends must meet the requirements of ASTM D4814.
- Ethanol intended for blending with gasoline must meet the ASTM D4806 standards.
- E85 fuel ethanol must meet the specifications of ASTM D5789.

### Biodiesel Standards

- Biodiesel blends of up to 5% (B5) must meet the ASTM D975 diesel fuel specification.
- Biodiesel blends of 6 to 20% (B6 to B20) are to meet the ASTM D7467 specification.
- The standard for pure biodiesel (B100) is ASTM D6751. Any biodiesel used for blending must meet ASTM D6751 specifications. The remainder of the fuel must be diesel fuel that meets ASTM D975 specifications.

## Dispensers and Meters

The dispensers and meters used in retail and wholesale applications must be approved for biofuel sales by the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). The dispenser or meter must be accurate and correctly calibrated with the blend of fuel being sold. Fuel dispensers at contract sale locations must be full computing devices when used for retail sales.

Specifications and tolerances for retail dispensers and vehicle-tank meters can be found in *NIST Handbook 44, Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices*. See WAC 16-662 for the most current requirements.

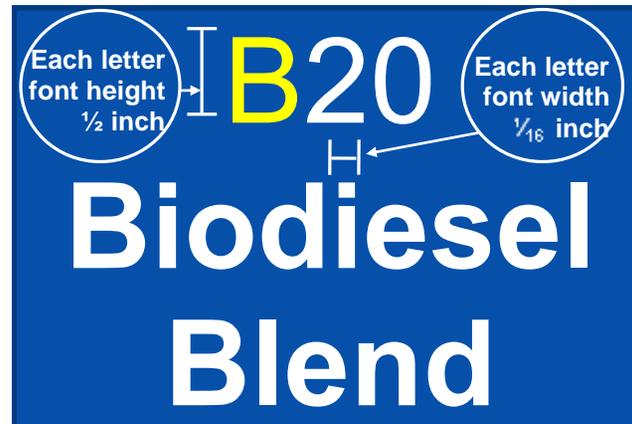
## Labeling Requirements

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) periodically adopts the fuel labeling requirements specified in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook 130 with some modifications.

See WAC 16-622 for the most current requirements.

### Biodiesel Must Be Labeled

- Retail dispensers of biodiesel blends containing no more than 5% biodiesel must be labeled **“May contain up to 5% Biodiesel.”**
- Retail dispensers of biodiesel blends containing more than 5% biodiesel must be labeled with the capital letter **“B”** followed by the value representing the volume percentage of biodiesel and ending with either “biodiesel” or “biodiesel blend.” For example:
  - **B10 Biodiesel Blend**
  - **B20 Biodiesel Blend**
  - **B100 Biodiesel**
- The label must be placed in the upper 50% of the dispenser front panel in a position clear and conspicuous from the driver’s position.
- The text on the label must be a type **at least** 1/2-inch in height and 1/16-inch in width.



### Ethanol Must Be Labeled

- Pumps dispensing ethanol blends of no less than 1% and no more than 10% must be labeled **“Contains up to 10% Ethanol.”**



- E85 pumps must be labeled with the capital letter **“E”** and the number **“85”** ending with the word “ethanol.”
- The placement and text size of the label are the same as for biodiesel.
- Federal regulations require all E15 fuel dispensers to have a label that informs consumers what vehicles can, and what vehicles and equipment cannot, use E15.

### How does a retailer know the biofuel content of a fuel for labeling purposes?

When fuel is delivered, a retailer is to be provided with documentation that declares the volume percent of biodiesel or ethanol. This information can be on the invoice, bill of lading or other document.