



# ***Diesel Storage and Cleanliness***

## **Marketing Technical Bulletin**

Under normal storage conditions diesel should be expected to stay in a useable condition for at least 12 months at a temperature of 20 degrees C but only if good housekeeping is maintained.

Fuel stability can be affected by:

- Metal contamination
  - + Zinc (galvanised pipes and fittings) and copper rapidly speed the process of gum and deposit formation in engines as well as discolouration of fuel and coking of injectors. These metals and alloys containing them should be avoided. Dirt can also introduce these metals
- Water
  - + Large amounts of fungi and bacteria can only grow if water is present. These can block filters but also produce organic acids that can destabilise the fuel forming gums and affect engine performance when combusted, they can also cause corrosion
- Heat
  - + High temperatures stress the fuel and can cause the fuel to prematurely age - discolouring the fuel and encouraging gum and deposit formation. Again this may cause engine deposits.

To ensure that fuel stays in good condition it is essential that the fuel is well looked after through good housekeeping and the elimination of problem metal components.

If possible:

- Check water is not present in storage tanks
- Ensure storage tanks have a way of draining water
- If water is present remove if possible
- Ensure that copper and zinc components are not used where they will come into contact with fuel
- Empty and clean tanks periodically to prevent sediment and water build up
- Where fuel will be stored for a long period, purchase winter grade stocks so that waxing will not occur in cold conditions
- Where possible keep tanks full to reduce the build up of water from condensation

Esso prides itself on the quality of its fuel and all is manufactured to meet National specifications.

Through simple precautions and good housekeeping problems can be reduced or prevented.