

# HEATBASE FACTSHEET 11

## Biofuel in Gas Oil

Due to Government legislation, from January 2011 Gas Oil/Red Diesel will contain up to 7 % Biofuel.

Biofuel is aggressive and all components used must be biofuel compatible e.g. Isolation valves, fire valves, fuel filters, flexi oil lines, oil pumps and jack rams. In certain cases, old style plastic oil tanks may not be compatible. Failure to replace any items that are not compatible with Bio fuels will lead to a leak or the ineffectiveness of isolation valves of fire valves to shut off when needed.

Biofuel may contain small but problematic quantities of water, although it is hydrophobic (non-miscible with water molecules), it is also said to be hygroscopic (has the ability to attract and retain water molecules from the surrounding environment through either absorption or adsorption). Therefore, before using bio fuels you must ensure your fuel tank is clear of water and sludge, and ensure that the tank is kept free of water whilst storing the fuel.

Biofuel also has a shorter shelf life than standard mineral oils and depending upon the blend should be stored in smaller quantities to ensure all fuel is used.