

## Biodiesel Warranty Statement

There are a variety of statements about biodiesel use from engine/vehicle manufactures, including some that make reference to warranty. Engine and vehicle manufactures provide a material and workmanship warranty on their products, such warranties do not cover damage caused by some external condition. Thus, if an engine that uses biodiesel experiences a failure unrelated to biodiesel use, it must be covered by the OEM's (Original Engine Manufacture) warranty. Federal law prohibits the voiding of a warranty just because biodiesel was used – it has to be the cause of the failure. If an engine experiences a failure caused by biodiesel use (or any other external condition, such as bad diesel fuel), the damage will not be covered by the OEM's warranty.

Many Engine OEM's are acknowledging biodiesel by stating their observations about harmful effects (or the lack of effects) with various blends in their equipment. Most OEM's declare a lack of harmful effects for B20 and lower blends based on a statement by the leading fuel injection equipment suppliers, as long as the biodiesel meets ASTM D6751 and or European biodiesel specification. Some OEM's recognize higher blend levels. More evaluation is underway in the diesel engine industry related to biodiesel and its effects on diesel engines.

Damage directly attributable to biodiesel will not be covered by an engine OEM's warranty, but should be covered by the fuel supplier's general liability insurance. New biodiesel users should be sure that their biodiesel suppliers provide liability coverage on the biodiesel and its blends. For an updated list of OEM's and their positional statements visit the National Biodiesel Board website at <http://www.biodiesel.org>.

### **OEM Position On Failures Caused By Diesel Fuel Or Biofuels**

“The use of biodiesel does not affect the OEM materials and workmanship warranty. However, any engine failure or performance issue caused by the use of biodiesel or other fuel additives cannot be considered as defects of the engine, components or workmanship - and would therefore not be covered by OEM warranty. This is no different from our position with any regular diesel fuel. “Manufacturer” does not cover the damage caused by products from other companies that may have insufficient quality. It is important to ensure when using any diesel fuel or biodiesel blend with OEM engine that the fuel meets industry acceptable quality standards”.

The **Magnuson-Moss Warranty** Act enacted in 1975, is the federal statute that governs warranties on consumer products.

### **Resources:**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/ch50.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnuson%E2%80%93Moss\\_Warranty\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnuson%E2%80%93Moss_Warranty_Act)

[http://www.biofuels4business.com/Engine\\_Warranties.html](http://www.biofuels4business.com/Engine_Warranties.html)