

FRENCH REPUBLIC

Ministry of the Economy, Finance and
Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty

Order of [] amending the Order of 4 June 2018 on the characteristics of marine diesel oil

NOR: ECOR2521167A

Persons concerned: *natural or legal persons placing on the market fuels used for the propulsion of vessels.*

Subject: *updating of the characteristics of the fuel known as ‘marine diesel oil’*

Standard NF ISO 8217 ‘Petroleum, synthetic and renewable products — Fuels (class F) — Specifications of marine fuels’ was updated by the International Maritime Organisation in 2024 and now allows the incorporation of fatty acid methyl esters. The Order incorporates the requirements of that standard and amends the Order of 4 June 2018 on the characteristics of marine diesel oil.

Entry into force: *This Order shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication.*

Application: *this Order incorporates the requirements of Standard NF ISO 8217: 2024 ‘Petroleum, synthetic and renewable products — Fuels (class F) — Specifications of marine fuels’. It may be consulted on the Légifrance website (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>).*

The Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty, the Minister for Public Action and Accounts, and the Minister Delegate, Government Spokesperson to the Prime Minister, responsible for energy to the Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty,

Having regard to Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC, as amended;

Having regard to Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services;

Having regard to the Energy Code, and in particular Articles L.281-1 to L.281-13, L.641-4, L.641-5 and L.641-5-1, D.641-4 to D.641-11 thereof;

Having regard to the Order of 4 June 2018 on the characteristics of marine diesel oil;

Having regard to notification No 2026/xxx/FR sent on xx/xx/2026 to the European Commission.

Order as follows:

Article 1

The abovementioned Order of 4 June 2018 is amended as follows:

- 1) In Article 1, in the first paragraph, after the words ‘of synthetic origin’, the words ‘and, where applicable, fatty acid methyl esters,’ are inserted;
- 2) In Article 1, in the first paragraph, the words ‘intended for the bunkering of vessels operating a maritime link between two ports within the territory of the European Union’ are replaced by ‘used for maritime navigation for commercial purposes or for the needs of public authorities’;
- 3) In Article 1, in the first paragraph, the words ‘set out in the annex’ are replaced by ‘as follows: ’;
- 4) In Article 1, after the first paragraph, the following paragraphs are inserted:

‘(1) The technical characteristics shall comply with those set out in Annex I to this Order;

(2) Fatty acid methyl esters shall meet the sustainability and greenhouse gas emission reduction criteria laid down in Articles L.281-1 to L.281-13 of the Energy Code and their characteristics shall comply with Annex II to this Order. ’
- 5) The Annex is amended as follows:

‘Annexes

ANNEX I

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARINE DIESEL OIL

PROPERTIES	Unit	Limit	GRADE			
			DML0	DML30	DML30PLUS	DML100
Fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) content	% (m/m)	max.	0.5	30.0	96.5	—
		min.	—	> 0.5	> 30.0	> 96.5
Kinematic viscosity at 40 °C	mm ² /s	max.	6.000			
		min.	2.000			
Density at 15 °C	kg/m ³	max.	890.0			
Distillation						
• % (V/V) recovered at 250 °C	% (V/V)	max.	< 65		—	
• % (V/V) recovered at	% (V/V)	min.	85		—	

PROPERTIES	Unit	Limit	GRADE			
			DML0	DML30	DML30PLUS	DML100
350 °C						
Calculated cetane index		min.	40.0	—	—	
Measured cetane number		min.	—	40.0		
Sulphur content	% (m/m)	max.	0.10			
Flash point	°C	min.	60.0			
Hydrogen sulphide	mg/kg	max.	2.00			
Acid number	mg KOH/g	max.	0.5			
Oxidation stability (FAME ≤ 2% (V/V))	g/m ³	max.	25	25	—	
Oxidation stability (FAME > 2% (V/V))	h	min.	—	8.0	8.0	
Carbon residue (on the 10% distillation residue)	% (m/m)	max.	0.30			
Pour point	From 1 October to 31 March	°C	max.	-6		
	From 1 April to 30 September	°C	max.	0		
Water and sediment content	% (m/m)	max.	0.10			
Ash content	% (m/m)	max.	0.010			
Lubricity, wear scar diameter (WSD) at 60 °C (a)	µm	max.	520			
Blue dye (1-4di-n-aminoanthraquinone)	g/hl	—	1.0			
Tracer: ACCUTRACE™ PLUS containing butoxybenzene	mg/l	min.	12.50 (i.e. 9.50 mg/l of butoxybenzene)			
		max.	18.75 (i.e. 14.25 mg/l of butoxybenzene)			
a) This requirement applies to fuels with a sulphur content of less than 0.050 % (m/m).						

ANNEX II

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FAME INCORPORATED INTO MARINE DIESEL OIL

CHARACTERISTICS	UNITS	LIMIT VALUES
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		Min.	Max.
FAME content	% (m/m)	96.5	—
Density at 15 °C	kg/m ³	860	900
Viscosity at 40 °C	mm ² /s	3.50	5.00
Flash point	°C	101	—
Cetane index	—	51.0	—
Sulphated ash content	% (m/m)	—	0.02
Water content	% (m/m)	—	0.050
Total contamination	mg/kg	—	24
Oxidation stability (at 110 °C)	hours	8.0	—
Acid number	mg KOH/g	—	0.50
Iodine value	g iodine/100 g	—	120
Linolenic acid methyl ester content	% (m/m)	—	12.0
Polyunsaturated methyl esters (≥ 4 double bonds)	% (m/m)	—	1.00
Methanol content	% (m/m)	—	0.20
Monoglyceride content	% (m/m)	—	0.70
Diglyceride content	% (m/m)	—	0.20
Triglyceride content	% (m/m)	—	0.20
Free glycerol	% (m/m)	—	0.02
Total glycerol	% (m/m)	—	0.25
Group I metals (Na + K)	mg/kg	—	5.0
Group II metals (Ca + Mg)	mg/kg	—	5.0

Phosphorus content	mg/kg	—	4.0
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FAME shall be treated, from production and prior to storage, with an antioxidant additive having performance at least equivalent to that of an incorporation of 1 000 ppm of butylhydroxytoluene (BHT).

FAME shall not be treated with cold-flow improving additives. ’

Article 2

This Order shall be published in the *Official Journal* of the French Republic.

Signed on [...]

The Minister for the Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty,
For the Minister and by delegation:
The Director General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control,

S. LACOCHE

The Minister for Public Action and Accounts,
For the Minister and by delegation:
The Director General of Customs
and Indirect Taxes,

F. COLAS

The Minister Delegate, Government
Spokesperson to the Prime Minister, responsible
for energy to the Minister of the Economy,
Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital
Sovereignty,
For the Minister and by delegation:
The Director for Energy,

L. KUENY

