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British Standard Specification for

Unleaded petrol (gasoline) for motor vehicles

Essence sans plomb pour véhicules automobiles — Spécifications

Unverbleites Benzin für Motorfahrzeuge

British Standards Institution

Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Petroleum Standards Committee to provide a specification for the quality of grades of unleaded petrol* implementing the provisions of EEC Directive 85/210/EEC of 20 March 1985 concerning the lead (and benzene) contents of petrol. The quality of leaded petrol, also covered by the same EEC Directive, is specified in BS 4040.

This standard was first published in 1985 at the request of the Department of Transport to enable reference to be made to it in Regulations arising from the EEC Directive. The EEC Directive requires that 'premium' grade unleaded petrol be available from 1 October 1989, but permits its supply from an earlier unspecified date. The EEC Directive also permits the supply of a 'regular' grade of unleaded petrol, but does not make its availability mandatory. In this British Standard provision is made for both 'premium' and 'regular' grades.

This standard specifies maximum lead and benzene contents and minimum values for research octane number (RON) and motor octane number (MON) and defines limiting requirements for other essential properties. It also incorporates recommendations for volatility levels appropriate to seasonal temperature variations in the UK for petrol supplied to service stations, in line with those recommended for leaded petrol in BS 4040.

The fuels covered by this standard are intended for use in petrol-engined road vehicles intended for use with unleaded petrol, including those designed to meet Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) of the United Nations and European Community emission standards.

This revision includes provisions to implement the EEC Directive on substitute fuel components (85/536/EEC). The test method in appendix B has been included in accordance with EEC Directive 87/441/EEC permitting the use of national test methods for oxygenates pending the preparation of a European Standard. The method in appendix B will be replaced by the European Standard method when available.

To allow time for producers to ensure that the quality of petrol at point of sale complies with the requirements of the British Standard, this revision of BS 7070 is effective from 29 July 1988 at which date BS 7070 : 1985 will be withdrawn.

NOTE. Testing. In the laboratory testing of petrol against the requirements of clause 4 of this British Standard it is necessary to use equipment and procedures exactly as laid down in the appropriate test methods. In particular it is essential to use properly inspected and maintained standard CFR† engines for the determination of both RON and MON. A useful guide to the satisfactory operation and test precision of a CFR engine can be obtained by including it in the Engine Test Correlation Programme of the Institute of Petroleum. Details of this Programme are available from the Institute of Petroleum or the British Standards Institution.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

*The term 'petrol' is used in this British Standard as being that most generally used by motorists in the UK: 'gasoline' and 'motor spirit' are alternatives.

†Co-operative Fuel Research Committee.