

FIRST BIO FUEL SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR TAXIS

Radio Taxis Group launched a new biodiesel blend called E3 at City Hall recently. Andrew Herbert, Managing Director of Radio Taxis Group, said: "Radio Taxis Group was the world's first ground transport fleet to go CarbonNeutral(r). But today we recognise that offset is not enough, the challenge is to deliver real and significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. This fuel is described as "the world's first bio fuel to be specifically created for use in taxis. The roll-out of this new biofuel means that we will be driving down CO2 emissions, driving down particulate emissions and, with fuel economy gains, driving down costs for our drivers."

WHAT IS E3?

The fuel is a 30% bio fuel blend. This is a greater percentage than the biodiesel already on sale on fuel station forecourts and probably the first question that a taxi driver will want answering is "How much does it cost?" and secondly "Is it suitable for my taxi?" LTI Vehicles have issued the following statement



LTI are committed to working to minimise the impact of our business and our vehicles on the environment and recognise that bio-fuels can play a valid part in this.

LTI use the Ford Duratorq engine in their TXII and the VM Motori engine in the new Euro 4 compliant TX4 purpose built taxis. Both manufacturers specify that only a maximum mixture of 5% Bio fuel can be used in their engines and will only provide a warranty to LTI for a maximum 5% mix. LTI is therefore only able to endorse a mix of up to 5% bio fuel in their vehicles for the warranty to remain valid.

Failures associated with the fuel system, engine or related parts resulting from the use of a bio fuel mixture greater than 5% are not covered by the LTI warranty and all claims should be referred to the supplier of the bio fuel mixture.

The Bio fuel supplier for Radio Taxis is Infinium limited and any issues that may arise from the use of E3, should be addressed to Infinium Limited, who has an indemnity of £5million per vehicle.



REDUCING EMISSIONS

Developed in partnership with UK based Infinium Limited, the E3 fuel is blended using UK grown virgin oilstock and claims are being made that the fuel will make significant reductions in CO2. Tailpipe testing by VCA approved Emission Laboratory (UK) Ltd has found that the fuel delivers a seven per cent reduction in CO2 emissions, significant cuts in harmful emissions, oxides of nitrogen and carbon monoxide, and a 4.7 per cent reduction in particulate matter alongside a 9.31 per cent improvement in miles per gallon. According to the information made available by RTG, the combined impact of reduced CO2 emissions and improved mileage per gallon means that the new fuel has the potential to deliver a fleet-wide cut of up to 5220 tonnes CO2 equivalent per annum and a reduction of 1.7 million litres in fuel consumption every year.

MAYOR CONGRATULATES RTG

The Mayor Ken Livingstone was present at the launch, held at City Hall. As London's taxi trade knows, he is determined to improve air quality in London and the Taxi Emissions Strategy was implemented to help in this aim. Ken Livingstone said: "London already has the best taxi service in the world, and I am working with the taxi trade to make it the cleanest. New regulations introduced this year, mean that the capital's 20,000 black cabs must now meet strict emissions standards, making vehicles less polluting to help improve London's air quality.

"I congratulate Radio Taxis' commitment to go a step further and introduce a greener fuel in their vehicles. By tackling carbon emissions in this way, Radio Taxis are demonstrating that forward-thinking businesses have an important role to play in tackling climate change and I hope that other London businesses will take their lead."

At the launch, high visibility reflector stickers carried on the front window screen was unveiled which is intended to give passengers the option to spot, and hail, a greener taxi. Andrew Herbert concluded: "The high visibility reflector strip is a simple way to empower Londoners to take action. We will continue to pay to offset the emissions created by every passenger journey in a Radio Taxis Group black cab - and we are offering all our drivers the choice to fill up on a premium quality biofuel."

FUEL STATISTICS

Infinium Limited commissioned testing by Emission Laboratory (UK) Ltd in January 2007 using a LTI TXII. The vehicle was run through a standard 98/69, 70/220/EEC - 2003/76/EC Consolidated Emissions TYPE 1 TEST comparing use of B30 supplied by Infinium with standard forecourt ULSD.

The summary results, following a green-in period of one week [roughly 1000 miles] showed: 8.74% reduction in NOX, 9.76% reduction in THC + NOX, 20.39% reduction in CO, 7.05% reduction in CO2, 4.73% reduction in PM, 9.31% improvement in MPG.