

BIODIESEL AT STATION

In the last issue of Taxi Globe, we reported on the 30% biodiesel launch by Radio Taxis Group. This new biodiesel blend, called E3, is exclusive to drivers on Radio Taxis at the moment. The fuel is being sold from the Station Road Driver Services Building, but there are plans already underway to have satellite fuelling stations across the capital. Bradley Reed of Inifinitum, the company supplying the fuel, is on hand to answer any questions that drivers may have as they come in to buy the fuel. He said: “When we took on the challenge of developing a fuel specifically for taxis it was as much about the drivers as it was about the engines. Inifinitum Energy has a specialist lubrication division. We have developed a proprietary additive package for the E3 bio fuel which has anti-gelling, anti-oxidant and anti-bacterial properties.”

GIVE ME MORE!



David Lambert drove into Station Road shouting Give Me More! He is an Institute of Advanced Motorists Examiner and is delighted with the way his cab is running on biodiesel. “Please can I have some more,” he asked Bradley, who of course was happy to oblige. David said: “All the claims are true, my cab is doing more mpg.”

DRIVERS ASK: “IS THE E3 PRODUCT SUITABLE FOR ME?”

Taxi Globe went along to meet Bradley and also talk to Tom Scullion, Radio Taxis Manager, Driver Services, who has been working on the biodiesel project for several years now. Biodiesel is currently available from some fuel stations around the country in a 5% mix, but this product is 30%. This has been the subject of much discussion in the taxi trade since news of the launch was announced. Some drivers have already made the decision to use the fuel and are repeat business customers at Station Road. For others, the statement from LTI Vehicles with regard to the warranties on cabs should the biodiesel be used in this 30% mix has stopped them from making the choice to use the product. Experience has shown some drivers that dealing with Warranty Claims via LTI dealerships is not always straight forward and can result in a loss of earnings, so naturally they have concerns. Bradley told Taxi Globe that his company have a £5million indemnity warranty against the fuel causing any problems and that he assures drivers any problems would be dealt with quickly should they arise. Experience of the fuel in other parts of the world such as Canada and Australia gave Inifinitum the confidence to say that there will not be any claims. The company has been supplying fuels and lubricants in the worldwide market place for over 25 years and they have invested much time, money and resources in developing this biodiesel.

BENEFITS OF HIGHER CETANE

Historically there have been some problems reported with bio diesel. One of these is “gelling” where the fuel freezes at a relatively high temperature and turns to “margarine” in the fuel system. Another is oxidising, which can cause corrosion damage to the fuel delivery system. The E3 biodiesel benefits from a high level of cetane – which is the highest available in any fuel in the UK - bio or dino diesel. Bradley told our reporter: “Cetane is used in higher quantities in products such as BP Ultimate diesel. This higher level ensures there is minimal time between injection and combustion of the fuel. Ordinary diesel with a low cetane number will give an inefficient fuel burn causing increased emissions, vibration, decreased efficiency and high levels of vehicle stress. With our cetane value of 56+ our fuel starts to burn earlier in the combustion stroke and burns smoothly and efficiently throughout the stroke ensuring that the fuel converts into energy rather than emissions. This means a reduction of all harmful tailpipe emissions and a 10%+ improvement in MPG. This also ensures the fuel is burned completely and there is no opportunity for it to leak into the engine oil. Quite opposite to clogging injectors, our fuel cleans the carbon and varnish deposits off of the injectors to ensure the proper spray pattern for the fuel coming off the injectors.”

Other drivers Taxi Globe met at Station Road were undecided but had come to talk to “the horse’s mouth” and asked Bradley lots of questions. Some of those who had arrived in quite a sceptical mood then decided to try the biodiesel following the answers Bradley had given them. Taxi Globe’s editor spoke to two of these drivers and asked them to report back on their experience, whether or not they like the product and whether they

