

PALM BIODIESEL WITH REDUCED FUEL FILTER BLOCKING POTENTIAL

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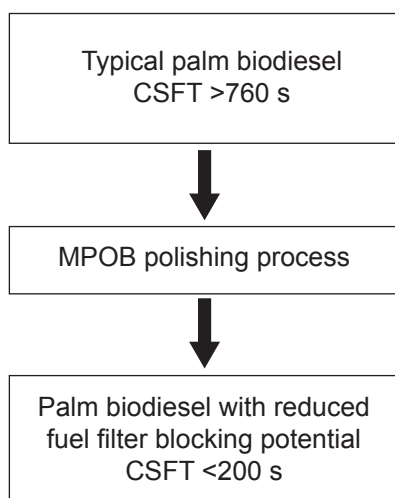
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The engine fuel filter blocking problem in vehicles running on biodiesel blends surfaced in 2007. Researchers discovered that this problem was due to the presence of steryl glucosides (Hoed *et al.*, 2008; Moreau *et al.*, 2008; Lacoste *et al.*, 2009) at very low level, *i.e.* less than 100 mg kg⁻¹. In October 2008, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) incorporated a new parameter called the cold soak filtration test (CSFT) in the revised specification for biodiesel blend stock (B100) for middle distillate fuels (ASTM D6751-08). A CSFT time of 360 s and 200 s was set as the upper limit for both normal and low temperature conditions (at or below -12°C), respectively.

MPOB PROCESS

Typical palm biodiesel produced by the conventional process cannot fulfil the CSFT requirements set by ASTM as a typical CSFT time of >720 s was recorded. MPOB has developed processes to overcome this problem, with the result of lowering the CSFT time to below 200 s.



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