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**Petroleum products  
and fat and oil de-  
rivates — Fatty acid  
methyl esters (FAME)  
for diesel engines —  
Determination of  
polyunsaturated ( $\geq 4$   
double bonds) fatty  
acid methyl esters  
(PUFA) by gas  
chromatography**

ICS 75.160.20

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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## EUROPÄISCHE NORM

September 2013

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English Version

Petroleum products and fat and oil derivatives - Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) for diesel engines - Determination of polyunsaturated ( $\geq 4$  double bonds) fatty acid methyl esters (PUFA) by gas chromatography

Produits pétroliers et produits dérivés des corps gras - Esters méthyliques d'acides gras (EMAG) pour moteurs diesel (gazole) - Détermination de la teneur en esters méthyliques d'acides gras polyinsaturés ( $\geq 4$  doubles liaisons) (PUFA) par chromatographie en phase gazeuse

Mineralölzeugnisse und Erzeugnisse aus pflanzlichen und tierischen Fetten und Ölen - Fettsäure-Methylester (FAME) für Dieselmotoren - Bestimmung von mehrfach ungesättigten ( $\geq 4$  Doppelbindungen) Fettsäuremethylestern (PUFA) mittels Gaschromatographie

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 22 September 2009 and includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 5 August 2013.

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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

## Foreword

This document (EN 15779:2009+A1:2013) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 19 "Gaseous and liquid fuels, lubricants and related products of petroleum, synthetic and biological origin", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2014, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2014.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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This document supersedes EN 15779:2009.

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## **Introduction**

Polyunsaturated fatty acid methyl esters are considered as a critical component in FAME since they show a low stability against oxidation and polymerization reactions. The specification on polyunsaturated ester content is needed in FAME and biodiesel products to limit the content of polyunsaturated FAME with more than three double bonds. At the time of the first FAME fuel specifications no test method was available for such a complicated determination in terms of identification and quantification, so technical work has been done in a joint working group with CEN/TC 307 before any standardisation steps could be taken.

The method has been prepared by the partners of the project "BIOScopes" (Lot 1, Task a) funded by the European Commission, DG TREN, with the purpose to execute a Pan-European round robin test to determine the precision data and the usability of this new and other revised determination methods for FAME.

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## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies a method for the determination of the polyunsaturated ( $\geq 4$  double bonds) fatty acid (PUFA) methyl esters content of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) as a whole between 0,6 % (*m/m*) and 1,5 % (*m/m*).

The method covers the predominant four polyunsaturated fatty acid methyl esters of eicosatetraenoic acid (C 20:4 (n-6)), eicosapentaenoic acid (C 20:5 (n-3)), docosapentaenoic acid (C 22:5 (n-3)), and docosahexaenoic acid (C 22:6 (n-3)).

Studies have indicated that based on the linearity of results from this European Standard, PUFA methyl esters can be determined in FAME in the range between 0,3 % (*m/m*) to 3,0 % (*m/m*). However, the precision was not established in that range, as no samples within the upper ranges were included in the final interlaboratory test (see 10.1).

Although the method is applicable to all uses, it is predominantly for FAME for use in diesel engines.

NOTE 1 For the purposes of this document, the term "% (*m/m*)" is used to represent the mass fraction of a material.

NOTE 2 This European Standard is based on A.O.C.S Official Method Ce 1b-89 [1].

## 2 Normative references

**A1** The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. **A1**

EN ISO 3170, *Petroleum liquids — Manual sampling (ISO 3170:2004)*

EN ISO 3171, *Petroleum liquids — Automatic pipeline sampling (ISO 3171:1988)*

## 3 Principle

Determination of the percentage of polyunsaturated ( $\geq 4$  double bonds) fatty acid (PUFA) methyl ester present in FAME is done by gas chromatography/FID detection using internal calibration with C 23:0 methyl ester. The theoretical detector correction factors relative to C 23:0 internal standard for different poly-unsaturated ester types are applied to the analytical data for optimum accuracy.

## 4 Apparatus

**4.1 Capable gas chromatograph**, consisting of a capillary injection system (preferable split mode at a split ratio of 1:50), a flame ionization FID detector and the following:

**4.1.1 Injector**, temperature 220 °C.

**4.1.2 Detector**, temperature 275 °C.

**4.1.3 Oven temperature profile**, initial temperature 150 °C, initial hold time 1 min; program rate 15 °C/min up to 200 °C; 2 °C/min up to 250 °C final temperature.

**4.1.4 Capillary column**, fused silica; 30 m in length, 0,25  $\mu\text{m}$  film thickness and 0,20 mm to 0,32 mm internal diameter. The liquid phase shall be bonded Carbowax or an equivalent polyethylene glycol type.