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Engine Manufacturers Issue Technical Statement on Use of Biodiesel Fuel

CHICAGO, Ill., March 7, 2003– The Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA) announced today that it has published a technical position statement on the use of biodiesel fuel in compression-ignition engines. The statement provides a factual assessment of biodiesel fuels and the potential effects of their use with current technology engines. The statement was prepared as a resource for potential biodiesel fuel users, government, and the public.

In its Statement, the Association concludes:

- All biodiesel fuel should meet specifications approved by ASTM International or comparable European standards-setting organizations.
- Fuels blending up to 5% biodiesel with petroleum-based diesel fuel should not cause engine or fuel system problems.
- Biodiesel blends may require additives to improve storage stability and allow use in a wide range of temperatures. In addition, the conditions of seals, hoses, gaskets, and wire coatings should be monitored regularly when biodiesel fuels are used.
- There is limited information on the effect of pure biodiesel and biodiesel blends on engine durability during various environmental conditions.
- Biodiesel fuels reduce emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide but increase nitrogen oxide emissions when compared to petroleum-based diesel fuel. Neither pure biodiesel fuel nor biodiesel blends should be used as a means to improve air quality in ozone non-attainment areas.
- Individual engine manufacturers will determine the implications, if any, of the use of biodiesel fuels on their commercial engine warranties.

Copies of the complete statement are available on the EMA Web site at:

www.enginemanufacturers.org

The Engine Manufacturers Association is a trade association representing worldwide manufacturers of internal combustion engines used in applications such as trucks and buses, farm and construction equipment, locomotives, marine vessels, and lawn, garden and utility equipment. EMA works with government and industry stakeholders to help the nation achieve its goals of cleaner fuels, more efficient engines and cleaner air.