

Brief information about situation of biofuels in the Czech Republic

The question of supporting the development and usage of biofuels in the Czech Republic is being solved in two fields. The first one is legislative and the second one is technological meaning research and development of new technologies. Regarding the legislative aspect of the addition of biocomponents mixed with fuels is solved by the Air Pollution Control Act 86/2002 and Government Regulation number 66 from 2nd February 2005. The novel of both norms is being negotiated at the moment.

The listed documents define market rates of biofuels in this matter:

year 2007 2% of content,
year 2008 2% of content,
year 2009 3,5 % of content.

The fuels with low content of biocomponents are not tax-relief. An evaluation of the given market rates will be done on the basis of practical experience from 2007 and 2008 and consequently in 2009 it will be defined how to increase market rates of biofuels further on. Quality of the fuels with biocomponents is defined by relevant norms in accordance with the norms and recommendation with EU.

The main sources of biocomponents in fuels are rape oil methyl ester and waterless ethanol which are gained from rape oil and cereals. Since 1st January 2007 mixing the biocomponents in fuels will be ensured regarding the technical aspects. The main producers and distributors of fuels have already implemented corresponding technical measures.

In the field of research there is no programme aimed at support of research and development of biofuels. It is possible to obtain a grant from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Agriculture. Mainly universities (VŠCHT Praha and University Pardubice) are interested in research in the biofuels field as well as the Research Institute of Inorganic Chemistry (VÚAnCh).

VÚAnCh is a workplace responsible for research activities in the range of holding UNIPETROL (for details see www.vuanch.cz). The section of refinery and petrochemical research has been engaged in biofuels topic for several years. It has worked out a draft for technical and technological measurements realized within biocomponents addition in fuels for producers and distributors of fuels. It is one of the top workplaces engaged in biofuels matter. Besides these activities the department has been solving long-term projects supported by the Ministry of Industry and Trade aimed at direct reprocessing of vegetable oils into fuels components, is also occupies with technologies for polymer preparation from plant components.

VÚAnCh significantly cooperates in the field of biofuels with VŠCHT, production enterprises Česká rafinérská, Unipetrol Rafinérie, distributors e.g. ČEPRO and it is a member of Association of research institutes (AVO) in the Czech Republic. Regarding the legislation system the Institute promotes its concepts in cooperation with the Association of Chemical Industry of the Czech Republic, Czech Association of fuels and oils producers, Czech Technological Platform Suschem and the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture.

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