|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **PRESS RELEASE** |

**Results of fuel inspections in 2020**

*(Final report of 2020)*

***(Prague, February 5, 2021)* The Czech Trade Inspection Authority evaluated the inspections of fuel samples taken in 2020. In total, it inspected 2,251 fuel samples, including 12 samples that did not meet the quality requirements. During 2020, the CTIA issued a ban on sales of 30,116.65 liters of fuel amounting to CZK 926,962.73.**

During 2020, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority took and inspected 2,251 samples of automotive petrol, diesel, FAME, LPG, CNG and ethanol E85. Fuel quality monitoring took place at filling stations throughout the Czech Republic. 12 samples, representing 0.5%, did not meet the quality requirements laid down. Fuel quality improved in 2020Compared to 2019, when 18 out of the total of 2,668 fuel samples taken (0.7%) did not meet the quality requirements.

Compared to 2019 results, quality improvements were observed in 2020 for automotive petrol samples (from 0.3% to 0.2%), diesel (from 1.0% to 0.8%), LPG samples (from 0.3% to 0.0%). Quality deterioration was observed in Ethanol E85 samples (from 10.0% to 12.5%). The zero values were recorded in collected samples of CNG, LPG and FAME.

In this area of inspections, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority cooperated with the Customs Administration, the General Financial Directorate and the Police of the Czech Republic. CTIA keeps these state authorities informed about the identified deficiencies in the quality of sold fuels.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Collected fuels according to types: January to December 2020 | | | | |
| Fuel type | Taken samples | In % | Non-compliant samples | % of fuel type |
| Automotive petrol | 867 | 38.52 | 2 | 0.2 |
| Diesel | 1,124 | 49.93 | 9 | 0.8 |
| Diesel fuel blend | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.0 |
| FAME | 1 | 0.04 | 0 | 0.0 |
| LPG | 219 | 9.73 | 0 | 0.0 |
| CNG | 32 | 1.42 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Ethanol E85 | 8 | 0.36 | 1 | 12.5 |
| Total | 2,251 | 100.00 | 12 | 0.5 |

Developments in fuels quality during 2020

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Non-compliant samples in % | | | | | | | |
| Month | Automotive petrol | Diesel | Diesel fuel blend\* | FAME | LPG | CNG | ethanol E85 | Total |
| January | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| February | 0,0 | 4,7 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 2,6 |
| March | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| April |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| June | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 100,0 | 0,4 |
| July | 0,9 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,4 |
| August | 1,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,4 |
| September | 0,0 | 0,9 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,4 |
| October | 0,0 | 2,2 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 1,1 |
| November | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |
| December | 0,0 | 1,5 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,8 |
| TOTAL | 0,2 | 0,8 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 12,5 | 0,5 |

\* DFB 30 samples were not taken due to the developments in the fuel market in 2020.

It is clear from the table and graph that in 2020 the highest number of non-compliant fuel samples was found in February. Two non-compliant samples were found in October and 1 non-compliant sample in June, July, August, September, December. No infringement was detected in the other months of 2020. In April 2020, no fuel samples were taken by the Czech Trade Inspection Authority as a result of the new coronavirus epidemic.

**Automobile petrol**

In 2020, a total of 867 samples of automotive petrol were taken and inspected. A total of 2 samples did not meet the set requirements of the technical standard on the petrol quality. Non-compliant quality indicators were as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Quality indicator | Number of noncompliant samples | % of collected samples of the particular fuel type |
| End of distillation | 1 | 0.1 |
| ROM | 1 | 0.1 |
| MOM | 1 | 0.1 |
| Vapour pressure | 1 | 0.1 |

The remaining 865 samples of automotive petrol met the quality indicators set out in th technical standard ČSN EN 228+A1/Z1: 2019 - Motor fuels - Unleaded automobile petrol - Technical requirements and test methods.

In connection with the deep fall in sales of automobile petrol due to the coronavirus epidemic, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority has allowed fuel dealers to sell their stock of petrol at petrol stations and tolerate deviations of the "vapour pressure" parameter and to assess these samples as safe in the range of 60 to 90 kPa until 30 June, 2020. Furthermore, responding to the surplus of automotive petrol in a quality compliant with the transition period caused by the sharp decrease in demand due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic measures, due to the lack of production and distribution of automotive petrol in the summer period quality caused by the two-month shutdown of the UNIPETROL Litvínov refinery and due to the emergence of the physico-chemical phenomenon of the so-called "mixing effect“ (specified in ČSN EN 228), the Czech Trade Inspection Authority allowed fuel dealers to sell stock of automotive petrol at filling stations and tolerate deviations of the parameter "vapour pressure" and to assess these samples as harmless in the range of 45 - 65 kPa from 1 July 2020 to 15 July 2020.

**Diesel**

A total of 1,124 diesel samples were taken and inspected in 2020. Nine of the number of samples taken did not meet the quality indicators established according to the relevant technical standard. Non-compliant quality indicators were as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Quality indicator | Number of noncompliant samples | % of collected samples of the particular fuel type |
| Flash point | 7 | 0.6 |
| Sulphur | 2 | 0.2 |

The remaining 1,115 diesel samples met the quality indicators set out in the technical standard ČSN EN 590+A1: 2018 - Motor fuels - Diesel - Technical requirements and test methods.

**Diesel fuel blend, FAME**

In 2020, 1 FAME sample was taken and inspected, which met the quality parameters set out in technical standard ČSN EN 14214+A2: 2019 Liquid petroleum products – Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) for use in diesel engines and heating applications – Technical requirements and test methods. Samples of diesel fuel blend DFB 30 could not be taken due to developments in the fuel market.

**LPG for propulsion (liquefied petroleum gases)**

A total of 219 LPG samples were taken and inspected in 2020. All samples taken and inspected met the quality parameters set out in technical standard ČSN EN 589: 2019 — Motor fuels — Liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) – Technical requirements and testing methods.

**CNG (compressed natural gas)**

In 2020, a total of 32 samples of this automotive fuel type were taken and inspected. All CNG samples taken and inspected complied with all quality requirements laid down in technical standard ČSN 65 6517: 2009 - Motor fuels - Compressed natural gas - Technical requirements and test methods.

**Ethanol E85**

In 2020, a total of 8 fuel samples of ethanol E85 were taken and inspected. Of this number of samples taken and inspected, 1 sample did not meet the quality requirements of the relevant technical standard in the test indicator "water" and "vapour pressure", which was 12.5% of the fuel type samples. The remaining 7 samples taken and inspected complied with the quality indicators set out in EN 15293: 2019 - Motor fuels - Ethanol E85 - Technical requirements and test methods.

**Biofuels in fuels**

During 2020, the content of fatty acid methyl ester was inspected in 1,124 diesel samples. The ethanol content of automotive gasoline was inspected for 867 samples of this type motor fuel. Laboratory analyses didn‘t show that the permissible upper limit of the biofuel content of the samples of the engine fuels monitored was exceeded.

**Measures taken**

During the last year, in 6 cases, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority imposed a ban on the sale of fuel that did not meet the quality and composition requirements laid down in the implementing legislation, specific legislation and Czech technical standards. A total these were 30,116.65 litres of fuel amounting to CZK 926,962.73.

In particular, the measure was imposed on:

• 18,354.30 litres of diesel in the value amounting to CZK 557,271.76

• 10,380.35 litres of petrol in the value amounting to CZK 331,133.17

• 1,382.00 litres Ethanol E85 in the value amounting to CZK 38,557.80