

Technical Details of OptiFuel™

The following provides information regarding the composition of **OptiFuel™**, how **OptiFuel™** works, what effect it may have relating to tolerance levels of metals in fuel, and what it can do relative to other common fuel additive types.

Catalyst 1 – an organometallic catalyst comprising iron in an organic matrix that aids in improving combustion efficiency, comprising Ferrocene, $C_5H_5FeC_5H_5$.

Catalyst 2 - a partial oxidation catalyst comprising vanadium (V) and phosphorus (P) oxides that aids in emission reduction, comprising vanadium phosphate hydrate ($VOPO_4 \cdot nH_2O$), where n is 0.5, 1, or 2.

Catalyst 3 – an ammoxidation catalyst comprising vanadium and antimony oxides that aids in emission reduction, comprising a vanadium oxide/antimony oxide mixture ($VSbO_4$).

Carrier – a solvent, 2-Butoxyethanol ($C_6H_{14}O_2$) that is miscible in petroleum distillates, residual fuels, biofuels, and biofuel/petroleum fuel blends.

Once **OptiFuel™** is blended into liquid fuels at the manufacturer specified rate, the total amount of elemental Fe, V, Sb, and P comprising the catalysts blended into finished fuel is less than 0.560 mg/L (parts-per-million, or ppm) when fuel is dosed according to manufacturer specifications. In no case do any of the metals or P added by treating fuel with **OptiFuel™** exceed known specific tolerance limits for individual metallic elements. Currently, there are no known US, EU, or other specific tolerance limits for V, P, Fe, or Sb in on-road type fuels – diesel or petrol, with the exception of P for biodiesel (see below), where biodiesel would be part of a biodiesel/petrodiesel blend. Biodiesel has total aggregate limits for Group I¹ and Group II² metals, but no Group I or Group II metals are contained in **OptiFuel™**.

With regard to specific tolerance limits, the lowest tolerance level for V and P in Marine Fuel Oil (MFO) in either residual or distillate types, is 50 mg/Kg and 15 mg/Kg respectively, where bulk density of those fuels is approximately 1 Kg/L³. Total V content added by treatment with **OptiFuel™** is 0.050 mg/L. Total P content added by treatment with **OptiFuel™** is 0.023 mg/L. Total levels of V and P added by treatment with **OptiFuel™** are orders of magnitude lower than their respective tolerance limits for MFO, whether residual or distillate.

Biodiesel created according to EN14214 and ASTM D6751 standards has phosphorus tolerance limits of 4 mg/Kg and 10 mg/Kg respectively. The bulk density of biodiesel conforming to the EN14214 standard is 0.86-0.90 Kg/L. Total P content added by treatment with **OptiFuel™** is 0.023 mg/L. Total levels of P added by treatment with **OptiFuel™** are orders of magnitude lower than either specified tolerance limit for biodiesel.

With respect to ash content in MFO (residual or distillate), diesel conforming to EN590, SANS 342, ASTM D975, and IS 1460 standards, the tolerance level is 0.010%, which equates to 100 mg/Kg. In the case of biodiesel conforming to the EN 14214 or ASTM D6751 standards, the sulfated ash tolerance limit is 200 mg/Kg. In terms of total added ash content, the amount of non-combustible solids added by **OptiFuel™** to a liter of any of these fuels is a maximum of 0.658 mg when dosed at manufacturer-specified rates.

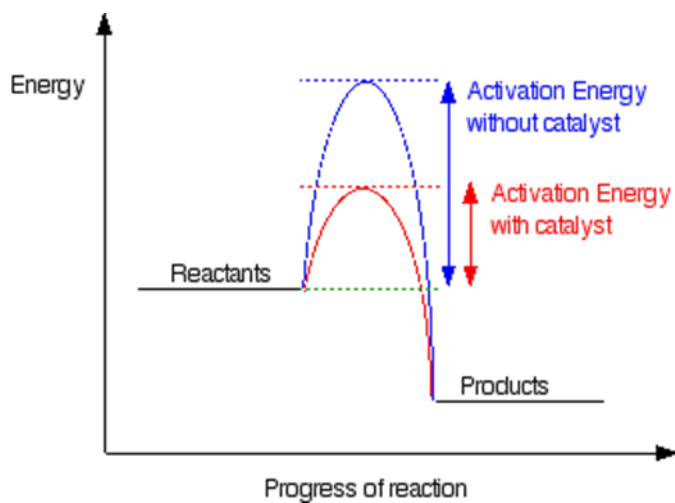
No ash or metals tolerance limits were noted for gasoline standards in the EU or US.

The following provides information on how the suite of catalysts in OptiFuel™ works in relation to combustion and emissions reduction.

During combustion, Ferrocene is oxidized, thus creating CO₂, H₂O, and Fe₂O₃ (Hematite). Fe₂O₃ is known as an oxidation catalyst, and has been commonly used as such in the production of sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) from SO₂⁴.

Fe₂O₃ facilitates the combustion reaction once combustion is initiated in the engine cylinder in two related ways. The first action of hematite is dissociating O₂ into Oxygen free radicals⁵. The second is reducing Activation Energy⁶ with regard to oxidation reactions.

Activation energy is the amount of energy required to initiate a chemical reaction, which, in the case of petroleum fuels, is the reaction between oxygen free radicals and hydrocarbons.



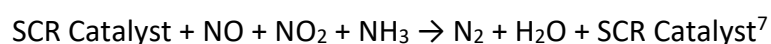
In a closed system such as an engine's cylinder, these paired effects during fuel combustion translate to more system energy available to do work per unit of fuel consumed. This is commonly seen as an improvement in engine torque, as shown below in a comparative engine output trial between untreated and treated diesel.



Even with the catalytic effect of **OptiFuel™** on combustion efficiency and engine output, fuel does not burn completely. Nitrogen is present in the atmosphere entering the engine, and diesel typically includes very low levels of Sulphur. The resulting emissions typically comprise various atmospheric gases, plus the results of oxidation reactions between oxygen and C, H, N, and S, those being CO/CO₂, NO_x, and SO_x, as well as residual short chain hydrocarbons and particulates (soot).

OptiFuel™ also contains catalysts that work post-combustion to reduce emissions. The catalytic process by which **OptiFuel™** reduces NO_x and SO_x is similar to Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) units, but there are significant differences with the **OptiFuel™** emission reduction process.

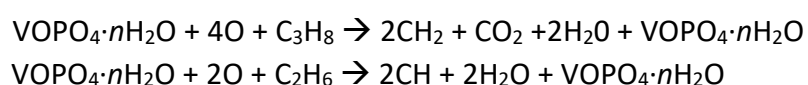
By way of illustrating the difference between the SCR process and how **OptiFuel™** acts, consider the SCR process. A solution containing ammonia (NH₃) or urea (NH₂CONH₂) is injected via an add-on mechanical unit into the exhaust stream post-combustion. Where urea is injected, thermal breakdown of urea in the exhaust gas stream forms two compounds isocyanic acid (HNCO) and ammonia. Ammonia works as a free radical in concert with the redox properties of the SCR catalytic converter unit to reduce NO_x (a combination of NO and NO₂) to N₂ and H₂O. The simple form of the reaction is as follows:



The SCR chemical reaction set depends on NO/NO₂ in the presence of reactive sites on the catalyst and NH₃ acting as a free radical first causing NO₂ to further oxidize and react with NH₃, forming NH₄NO₃, which is then reduced by NO to NH₄NO₂, which then decomposes to N₂ and H₂O⁸.

The catalysts in **OptiFuel™** are different than those typically used in SCR. The **OptiFuel™** catalysts that affect emissions are used commercially in redox reactions and are not specific only to **OptiFuel™**. **OptiFuel™** catalysts do not rely on ammonia or urea injected into the exhaust stream post-combustion to act as a free radical to reduce NO_x to N₂ and H₂O. Instead, there is a two-step process, making use of a highly selective partial oxidation catalyst and an ammoxidation catalyst.

The reaction mechanism for V/P oxide catalysts in terms of selective partial oxidation (as opposed to more complete oxidation with other catalysts such as platinum-based ones) is not well documented. However, it is known to exist, and for that reason, V/P oxide catalysts are used extensively in the production of maleic anhydride from n-butane and 1-butene⁹. In terms of its utility in **OptiFuel™**, the partial oxidation catalyst selected for use (VOPO₄·nH₂O) could create hydrocarbon free radicals (CH, CH₂) from unburned short-chain hydrocarbons that are in the exhaust stream, making use of its partial oxidation properties by the following proposed reaction pathways:

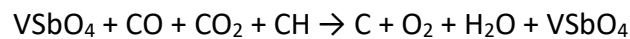
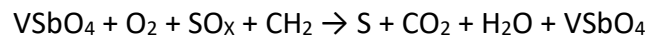
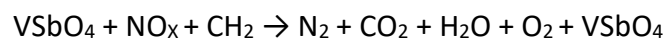


That said, **OptiFuel™** does not have the same shortcomings that SCR does, where SCR only becomes effective once the system reaches a sufficient temperature for catalysis to occur, which is typically between about 250°C and 430°C. **OptiFuel™** also is not subject to catalyst “poisoning”

(a reduction in catalytic effectiveness due to reaction with emitted exhaust gases that, over time, act to impede the catalytic effect). This is because active catalysts are being continually supplied in the fuel. This also obviates concern about thermal cycling breaking down the physical structure of their catalytic converter over time.

The reason $\text{VOPO}_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was selected for use in **OptiFuel™** was due to its effectiveness for the purpose. The purpose was not to completely oxidize unburned hydrocarbons, as might happen with platinum-based or cerium-based catalysts. It was only to partially oxidize them, leaving hydrocarbon free radicals to act in concert with the Ammoxidation catalyst to reduce unwanted emissions in the exhaust stream.

Ammoxidation catalysts have been found to be useful in reduction of NO_x in exhaust emissions⁸. Hydrocarbon free radicals act in a manner similar to ammonia in SCR processes in the presence of the ammoxidation catalyst. CO_2 , NO_x and SO_x . In the presence of **OptiFuel™** ammoxidation catalyst (VSbO_4), are reduced to N_2 , molecular S, molecular C, and H_2O by the following reaction pathways:



The reason $\text{V}_4\text{Sb}_6\text{O}_8$ was selected for use in **OptiFuel™** was that its effectiveness as an ammoxidation catalyst, and therefore, its ability to reduce NO_x , SO_x , CO, and CO_2 in the presence of hydrocarbon free radicals was sufficient for the purpose, but the catalyst was not so effective as to impede the effectiveness of the hematite catalyst generated during combustion of Ferrocene with regard to oxidation reactions.

As regards the exhaust, it's widely known that various metals are emitted in the exhaust during diesel engine use, as part of particulate emissions^{10, 11, 12, 13}. Metallic emissions in diesel exhaust comes from two sources: the fuel itself, or from metallic additives in engine oil and wear metals deposited in engine oil¹⁴.

With regard to the total amount of metals plus P emitted as a result of **OptiFuel™** usage, consider the following; a vehicle with a fuel use rate of 30 miles per gallon (3.785 liters/gallon) traveling at 60 miles per hour using fuel dosed with **OptiFuel™** will emit less than 0.0706 mg/minute of combined V, Sb, Fe, and P. The total amount of Fe, V, and Sb alone emitted from a typical 6-cylinder diesel engine in exhaust is 4.481 mg/minute¹⁴. Comparing the two values, the total amount of metals and P emitted as a result of **OptiFuel™** usage under those circumstances increases the total metal concentration of diesel exhaust by less than 1.5%.

*Typical additives used for detergent purposes, sequestering water, improving cetane/octane levels, etc., can only return engine efficiency and emissions to levels approaching that of a clean, new engine. Because of the unique catalytic formulation of **OptiFuel™** and how it affects both the combustion process and exhaust gas makeup, fuel economy and emissions can be improved over and above levels observed in clean, new engines. No other fuel additive can successfully make that claim.*

1. [https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Book%3A_Inorganic_Chemistry_\(Saito\)/5%3A_Chemistry_of_Main-Group_Metals/5.1%3A_Group_1_Metals](https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Book%3A_Inorganic_Chemistry_(Saito)/5%3A_Chemistry_of_Main-Group_Metals/5.1%3A_Group_1_Metals)
2. [https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Supplemental_Modules_\(Inorganic_Chemistry\)/Descriptive_Chemistry/Elements_Organized_by_Block/1_s-Block_Elements/Group_2_Elements%3A_The_Alkaline_Earth_Metals](https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Supplemental_Modules_(Inorganic_Chemistry)/Descriptive_Chemistry/Elements_Organized_by_Block/1_s-Block_Elements/Group_2_Elements%3A_The_Alkaline_Earth_Metals)
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