

Proposal for New NIST Handbook 130 Laws and Regulations To Address Hydrogen Refueling Applications

The U.S. National Work Group (USNWG) for the Development of Commercial Hydrogen Measurement Standards is recommending for adoption new method of sale and engine fuel quality requirements for NIST Handbook 130 (H130) to address gaseous hydrogen refueling applications. There is also a corresponding proposal to add a Tentative Hydrogen Gas-Measuring Devices Code to NIST Handbook 44. The proposed codes and definitions address legal metrology requirements for the newly emerging hydrogen refueling technology. The USNWG believes the code has merit and recommends the weights and measures community consider approving these requirements since 24 states now have hydrogen refueling stations in operation.

The USNWG began work on this project in October 2007. Draft 3.0 of the H130 Code shown below is the result of work by the USNWG Fuel Specifications Subcommittee (FSS) at its August 2009 meeting.

An in-depth summary of L&R issues is available in the paper titled “The Starting Point: A Discussion Paper Describing a Proposed Method of Sale and Quality Specification for Hydrogen Vehicle Fuel” (August 2009) developed by Ken Butcher and updated by Lisa Warfield, past and present NIST Technical Advisors to the USNWG Fuel Specifications Subcommittee, respectively.

More information on the discussion paper and work by the USNWG is available on the NIST WMD web site at <http://ts.nist.gov/WeightsAndMeasures/index.cfm>, under the W&M Resources link to “Developing Commercial Hydrogen Measurement Standards.” To comment on this proposal, contact Lisa Warfield, NIST WMD, at lisa.warfield@nist.gov, by telephone at (301) 975-3308, by fax at (301) 975-8091 or by postal mail at NIST WMD, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 2600, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2600.

Recommendation: Add new method of sale requirements for NIST Handbook 130 Section IV. Uniform Regulations Part B. Uniform Regulations for the Method of Sale of Commodities Section 2 Non-food Products to address gaseous hydrogen refueling applications as follows:

Section 2. Non-food Products ^[Note 1, page 103]

2.XX. Retail Sales. - Hydrogen Fuel (H).

2.XX.1. Definitions – Hydrogen Fuel (H).

2.XX.1.1. Hydrogen Fuel. - A fuel composed of the chemical hydrogen intended for consumption in an internal combustion engine or fuel cell.

The symbol for hydrogen vehicle fuel shall be the capital letter "H" (the word Hydrogen may also be used.)

2.XX.2. Method of Retail Sale and Dispenser Labeling. - All hydrogen fuel kept, offered, or exposed for sale and sold at retail shall be in terms of the kilogram.

2.XX.3. Retail Dispenser Labeling.

2.XX.3.1. A computing dispenser must display the unit price in whole cents on the basis of price per kilogram.

2.XX.3.2. The service pressure(s) of the dispenser must be conspicuously shown on the user interface in bar or the SI Unit of Pascal (Pa) (e.g., MPa).

2.XX.3.3. The product identity must be shown in a conspicuous location on the dispenser.

2.XX.3.4. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) labeling requirements also apply.

2.XX.3.5. Hydrogen shall be labeled in accordance with 16 CFR 309 – FTC Labeling Alternative Fuels.

2.XX.4. Street Sign Prices and Advertisements.

2.XX.4.1. The unit price must be in terms of price per kilogram in whole cents (e.g., "\$3.49 per kg" not \$3.499 per kg).

2.XX.4.2. The sign or advertisement must include the service pressure (expressed in megapascals) at which the dispenser(s) delivers hydrogen fuel (e.g., H35 or H70).

Recommendation: Add new definitions for NIST Handbook 130 Section IV. Uniform Regulations Part G. Uniform Engine Fuels, Petroleum Products, and Automotive Lubricants Regulations Section 1. Definitions to address gaseous hydrogen refueling applications to read as follows:

1.XX. Fuel Cell. - an electrochemical energy conversion device in which fuel and an oxidant react to generate energy without consumption of its electrodes or electrolyte.

1.XX. Hydrogen Fuel. - a fuel composed of the chemical hydrogen intended for consumption in a surface vehicle with an internal combustion engine or fuel cell

1.XX. Internal Combustion Engine. - a device used to generate power by converting chemical energy bound in the fuel into mechanical work to power a vehicle.

Cite the appropriate reference for the hydrogen fuel quality standard below that was developed by the California Division of Measurement Standards and modified by the April 2009 FSS in NIST Handbook 130 Section IV. Uniform Regulations

Part G. Uniform Engine Fuels, Petroleum Products, and Automotive Lubricants Regulations Section 2. Standard Fuel Specifications as follows:

Table 1. Hydrogen Fuel Quality Specification*					
	Property	Value	Unit	Limit	Test Method(s)
1	Ammonia	0.1	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
2	Carbon Dioxide	2	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
3	Carbon Monoxide	0.2	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
4	Formaldehyde	0.01	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
5	Formic Acid	0.2	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
6	Helium	300	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
7	Hydrogen Fuel Index	99.97	% (a)	Minimum	to be specified
8	Nitrogen and Argon	100	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
9	Oxygen	5	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
10	Particulate Concentration	1	mg/kg	Maximum	to be specified
11	Total Allowable Non-Hydrogen, Non-Helium, Non-particulate constituents	100	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
12	Total Non-Hydrogen Gases	300	ppm v/v (c)	Maximum	to be specified
13	Total Halogenated Compounds	0.05	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
14	Total Hydrocarbons	2	ppm v/v (d)	Maximum	to be specified
15	Total Sulfur Compounds	0.004	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified
16	Water	5	ppm v/v	Maximum	to be specified

Footnotes to Table 1 –

a. Hydrogen fuel index is the value obtained with the value of total gases (%) subtracted from 100%.

b. Total Gases = Sum of all impurities listed on the table except particulates.

c. Total Hydrocarbons may exceed 2 ppm v/v only due to the presence of methane, provided that the total gases do not exceed 300 ppm v/v.

*The FTC’s Fuel Rating Rule (16 CFR Part 309) see the requirements in “Labeling of Alternative Fuels” at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/business/autos/bus29.shtm> requires dispensers to bear an declaration of minimum percent of hydrogen determined according to test methods described in “Standard Test Method for Analysis of Natural Gas by Gas Chromatography (ASTM D1946)

The FSS agreed to move forward with the interim fuel quality specifications is the table. However, the FSS agreed to revisit the interim standard should a different fuel quality specification be published by a nationally recognized standards body.