
**EMISSION MEASUREMENT CENTER
GUIDELINE DOCUMENT**

STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR FUEL OIL

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Register currently references ASTM D 396-78, which is used to determine the grade of fuel oil and is incorporated by reference in Subparts Db, K, and Ka (§§ 60.41b, 60.111(b), and 60.111a(b), respectively). The ASTM updated this method to D 396-84. The purpose of this document is to answer the question whether ASTM D 396-84 can be used instead of ASTM D 396-78 without affecting the standards.

SUMMARY

The differences between the two methods are slight. The changes include a list of references, additional viscosity limits, addition of a "No. 4 (light)" grade fuel, and an increase in permissible ash content.

The ASTM D 396-78 is used as follows:

(1) To include in § 60.41b Nos. 1 and 2 fuel oils that have a N₂ content of greater than 0.05 weight percent, and Nos. 4, 5, and 6 fuel oils in the definition of "residual oil."

(2) To exclude in § 60.111(b) and § 60.111a(b) Nos. 2 through 6 fuel oils from the definition of "petroleum liquids."

CONCLUSION

The changes made in ASTM D 396-84 will not affect the definitions of "residual oil" and "petroleum liquids," and hence the standards in the applicable subparts. Therefore, ASTM D 396-84 may be used instead of ASTM D 396-78 for fuel oil specification.

REFERENCE

1. ASTM letter from Edmund W. White to Lori T. Lay, March 21, 1988.

