This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

Designation: D4814 – 18b

Standard Specification for Automotive Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4814; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers the establishment of requirements of liquid automotive fuels for ground vehicles equipped with spark-ignition engines.

1.2 This specification describes various characteristics of automotive fuels for use over a wide range of operating conditions. It provides for a variation of the volatility and water tolerance of automotive fuel in accordance with seasonal climatic changes at the locality where the fuel is used. For the period May 1 through Sept. 15, the maximum vapor pressure limits issued by the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are specified for each geographical area except Alaska and Hawaii. Variation of the antiknock index with seasonal climatic changes and altitude is discussed in Appendix X1. This specification neither necessarily includes all types of fuels that are satisfactory for automotive vehicles, nor necessarily excludes fuels that can perform unsatisfactorily under certain operating conditions or in certain equipment. The significance of each of the properties of this specification is shown in Appendix X1.

1.3 The spark-ignition engine fuels covered in this specification are gasoline and its blends with oxygenates, such as alcohols and ethers and where gasoline is the primary component by volume in the blend. The concentrations and types of oxygenates are not specifically limited in this specification. The composition of both unleaded and leaded fuel is limited by economic, legal, and technical consideration, but their properties, including volatility, are defined by this specification. In many countries, regulatory authorities having jurisdiction have set laws and regulations that limit the concentration of oxygenates and certain other compounds found in spark-ignition engine fuel. In the United States, oxygenate types and concentrations are limited to those approved under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) substantially similar rule (see X3.3.1), waivers, and partial waivers including some restrictions on vehicle and equipment use (see X3.3.2). With regard to fuel properties, including volatility, this specification can be more or less restrictive than the EPA rules, regulations, and waivers. Refer to Appendix X3 for discussions of EPA rules relating to fuel volatility, lead and phosphorous contents, sulfur content, benzene content, deposit control additive certification, and use of oxygenates in blends with unleaded gasoline. Contact the EPA for the latest versions of the rules and additional requirements.

1.4 This specification does not address the emission characteristics of reformulated spark-ignition engine fuel. Reformulated spark-ignition engine fuel is required in some areas to lower emissions from automotive vehicles, and its characteristics are described in the research report on reformulated spark-ignition engine fuel.[2] However, in addition to the legal requirements found in this research report, reformulated spark-ignition engine fuel should meet the performance requirements found in this specification.

1.5 This specification represents a description of automotive fuel as of the date of publication. The specification is under continuous review, which can result in revisions based on changes in fuel, automotive requirements, or test methods, or a combination thereof. All users of this specification, therefore, should refer to the latest edition.

NOTE 1—If there is any doubt as to the latest edition of Specification D4814, contact ASTM International Headquarters.

1.6 Tests applicable to gasoline are not necessarily applicable to its blends with oxygenates. Consequently, the type of fuel under consideration must first be identified in order to select applicable tests. Test Method D4815 provides a procedure for determining oxygenate concentration in mass percent. Test Method D4815 also includes procedures for calculating mass oxygen content and oxygenate concentration in volume percent. Appendix X4 provides a procedure for calculating the mass oxygen content of a fuel using measured oxygenate type, oxygenate concentration in volume percent, and measured density or relative density of the fuel.

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.A0.01 on Gasoline and Gasoline-Oxygenate Blends.

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[2] Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting MONO12, U.S. Reformulated Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel and the U.S. Renewable Fuels Standard.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

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