

The American Petroleum Institute (API) has revised “Using the API Color-Symbol System to Identify Equipment, Vehicles, and Transfer Points for Petroleum Fuels and Related Products at Dispensing and Storage Facilities and Distribution Terminals” (API Recommended Practice 1637, Fourth Edition, April 2020).

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture adopts the Kerosene and Motor Fuels Quality Inspection Regulation in Chapter 0080-05-12-.05 Retail Product Storage Identification requires the following:

- (1) Fill Connection Labeling - the fill connection for any petroleum product storage tank or vessel supplying engine-fuel devices shall be permanently, plainly, and visibly marked as to the product contained by means of:
  - (a) A permanently attached tag or label and;
  - (b) American Petroleum Institute color codes as specified and published in “API Recommended Practice 1637.”

This system’s principal purpose has been and continues to be a uniform and easily understood identification system to help prevent unintended errors or accidental mixing of products and grades in product handling by means of colors, symbols, and/or graphics and text designs.

Some of the notable changes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition are the following:

1. A white cross symbol on red or blue backgrounds or a black cross symbol on a white background to identify unleaded gasoline is no longer required.
2. A white circle surrounding the mid-grade and premium and a black circle surrounding the regular grade gasoline to indicate gasoline containing extenders or oxygenates (ethanol) is no longer required.
3. Diesel – dropped previous requirements on the sulfur content declarations.
4. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition now requires a Black 0 on Regular grade gasoline, a white 0 on Mid-grade and Premium gasoline, a black 0 on a pink background on Racing Fuel to identify E0 or conventional unblended fuels.
5. E15 fuel requires a Copper background with a Black E15 painted in the center.
6. On-Road Diesel less than or equal to 5% biodiesel is identified by a solid Yellow background.
7. On-Road Diesel greater than 5% biodiesel is a back B XX with XX being the biodiesel %.
8. Off-Road Diesel less than or equal to 5% biodiesel is a Yellow background with Red OFF.
9. Off-Road Diesel greater than 5% biodiesel is a Yellow background with Red OFF and Black BXX.
10. Biodiesel B99/B100 is identified by solid Light Blue coloring.

The above-mentioned changes are by no means an all-inclusive list of requirements or changes and it is highly recommended anyone involved within the fuel distribution chain go to the API Publications Store website at <https://www.apwebstore.org/> and obtain a copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

Please ensure this information is relayed to all involved in the transfer and delivery of fuel products within the supply chain along with maintenance sections responsible to implement the new requirements at retail locations. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture in consultation and cooperation with industry representatives have determined the new Color Code requirements shall be in place no later than July 1, 2021.