
POSITION PAPER

15 September 2011



Additional Information regarding:

Preliminary Consultant Report on Cost-benefit assessment of Gas quality harmonization in the EU

1 Introduction

EUROMOT has been actively participating in the consultations for the cost-benefit of gas quality harmonization and has provided information regarding the impact on internal combustion engines [1]. The key aim of this second paper is to provide further information on national gas rules in the U.S.A. which are preferable to the gas specifications proposed in the EASEE-gas Common Business Practice (EASEE-gas CBP).

2 Natural gas interchangeability rules in the USA

On February 28, 2005, the U.S. Natural Gas Council and a large Interchangeability Working Group consisting of gas suppliers, users and manufacturers of gas-fuelled equipment published a White Paper on the interchangeability of natural gases. The reason for this work was the expected substantial imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from diverse sources all over the world. As the imported LNGs vary substantially in composition, it was feared that the proper functioning of gas-fired equipment would suffer, resulting in damage, lower efficiency, higher emissions and potentially dangerous situations. Based on this, the U.S. Natural Gas Council together with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) set limits in their interim guidelines for a number of gas indices values: The Wobbe Index of the gas, the higher heating value, the amount of higher hydrocarbons (C4+) and the total amount of inert

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components, such as nitrogen and carbon dioxide [see table1]. In the table below, the American interim guideline is compared to some of the EUROMOT recommendations regarding the gas specifications necessary for stationary gas engines. The U.S. interim guidelines are close to the EUROMOT 's proposals.

Table 1: Limits in gas indices values in the USA (FERC Interim Guidelines)

Index	US Limit value	EUROMOT Recommendation [1]
Wobbe Index	Max 52.2 MJ/m³	
Wobbe Index Range*	+/- 1.5%	+/- 2%
Methane Number**	Min 79	Minimum MN 80
Higher heating value	Max 41.0 MJ/m³	
C4+ gases	Max 1.5 mol %	
Inert components	Max 4%	CO ₂ + N ₂ , 2.5+2.5= 5%

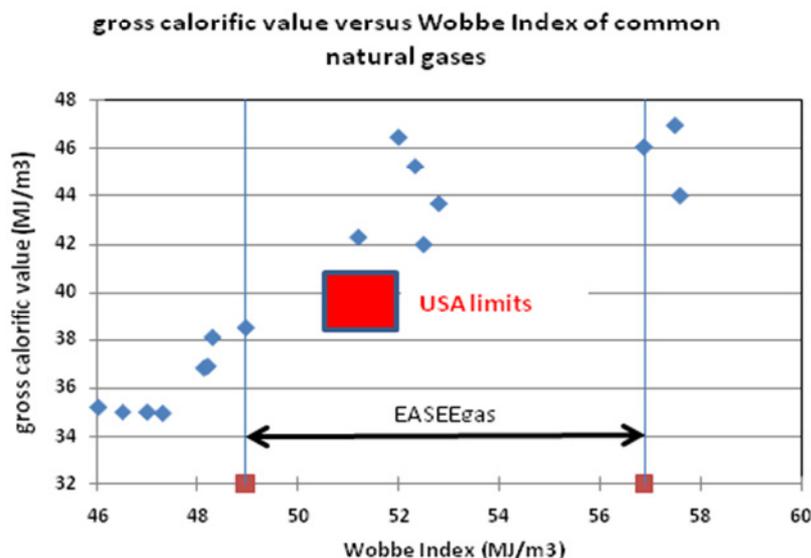
* Due to the maximum in inert components, the Wobbe index can never be lower than 50.6 MJ/m³. The range of the Wobbe Index is therefore +/- 1.5%

**The Methane Number is not regulated. However, for a maximum Wobbe Index of 52 MJ/m³ and a maximum of C4+ of 1.5%, the Methane Number, which is a measure of knock resistance, will always be above MN 79.

Due to the maximum in inert components, the Wobbe index can never be lower than 50.6 MJ/m³ and the higher heating value never lower than 38.2 MJ/m³. The range of the Wobbe Index is therefore +/- 1.5% and the range in the higher heating value never exceeds +/- 3.5%.

Due to the substantial increase in exploration and production of U.S. shale gas, the expected LNG imports never materialised. **Nevertheless the rules established still apply today.** The increase of shale gas, however, also raises concerns because of the large variations in composition experienced depending on location and time.

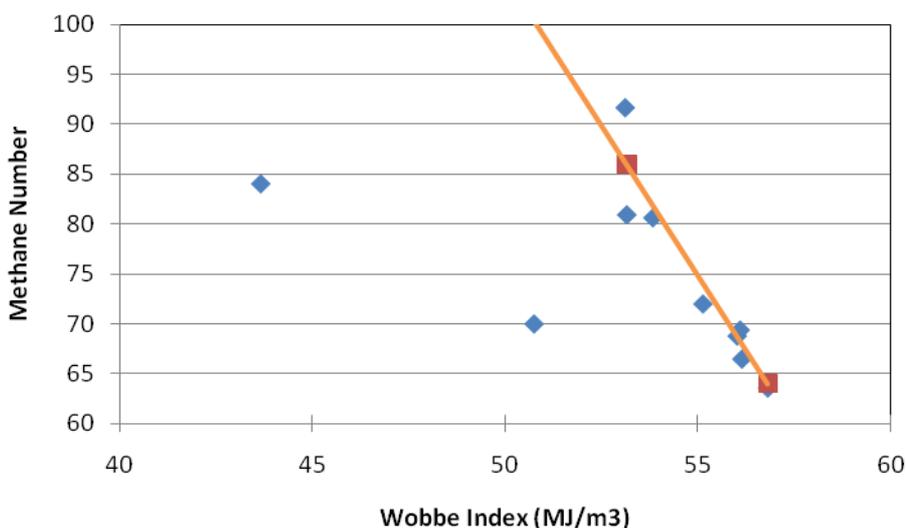
Figure 1: Substantially narrower limits for interchangeability of gases in the USA than proposed by EASEE-gas in Europe



3 Conclusion

The range in Wobbe Index in the USA is substantially smaller than the range proposed by EASEE-gas in Europe [Figure 1]. EUROMOT believes that this better reflects the needs of gas users and gas equipment manufacturers than the EASEE-gas specifications. Because of the narrow limits in the USA, the large errors in gas energy measurements expected in Europe will not occur in the USA. Furthermore, the combustion knock problems expected with gas engines in Europe when applying EASEE-gas CBP will not occur in the USA. For a maximum Wobbe Index of 52 MJ/m³ and a maximum of C4+ of 1.5%, the Methane Number, which is a measure of knock resistance, will always be above 79. That will not affect engine operation. For the EASEE-gas range, the methane number can be as low as 64, resulting in serious performance problems.

Figure 2: Low Methane Numbers possible with the proposed EASEEgas range.



EUROMOT believes that the U.S. Natural gas interchangeability rules have great advantages, especially a much more acceptable gas index range than the proposed EASEE-gas CBP. This is the result of close co-operation of experts of all stake-holders, users, manufacturers as well as suppliers.

References

1. EUROMOT position paper on gas quality, available at: http://www.euromot.org/download/ec4913cb-48f7-45ad-8aae-b5f5fe69cc10/GAS%20QUALITY%20euromot%20position%202011_05.pdf
2. Darin L. George and Edgar B. Bowles, 'Shale Gas Measurement and Associated Issues', Pipeline & Gas Journal, pp. 38-41, July 2011
3. Natural Gas Council, White Paper on Natural gas Interchangeability and Non-Combustion End Use, February 28, 2005.

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