

Operational Advice Notice

Withdrawal of Gas Oil Fuels from Airside

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OANs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their Supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Operational Advice Notice is to provide Airside Operators and Team Heathrow partners with information regarding the withdrawal of Gas Oil (also known as Red Diesel) fuels from the Airside environment, following government reforms to the treatment of rebated fuels.

1.2 This notice also introduces the availability of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in the Airside environment.

2. Definitions

Abbreviation	Description
AOF	Airfield Operations Facility
CTA	Central Terminal Area
HVO	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

3. Removal of Gas Oil / Red Diesel

3.1 At Budget 2020, the government announced that it was removing the entitlement to use Gas Oil from most sectors, except for agriculture, rail and non-commercial heating, effective from 1 April 2022.

3.2 This means that the government no longer permits the use of Gas Oil in vehicles/ground support equipment on the Airfield, and as a result, Heathrow and its main fuel supplier (Airport Energy), will remove Gas Oil from the Airfield fuel sites prior to 1st April, in order to comply with HMRC requirements.

3.3 HMRC have allowed some latitude for the use of Gas Oil which is already in fuel systems prior to the change in usage on 1st April – therefore there is no requirement for vehicle tanks to be drained.



- 3.4** Over the period w/c 7th March – 11th March, Airport Energy will be removing Gas Oil from the fuel sites across the Airfield (Airfield Operations Facility, CTA (by CP5) and T5D (adjacent the EAA building)).
- 3.5** Vehicles and ground support equipment which previously dispensed Gas Oil from Airfield fuel sites will need to draw Diesel from 12th March.
- 3.6** Airport Energy are carrying out an update to vehicle fuel rings and fobs to switch to Diesel. There should be no need for operating companies to take any action; however for any issues please contact your Airport Energy account manager.

4. Introduction of HVO Fuel

- 4.1** The removal of Gas Oil from the fuel sites on the Airfield has presented an opportunity to provide a sustainable alternative fuel at all sites – Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil.
- 4.2** HVO is a biofuel made by hydrogenating or hydrocracking vegetable oils. It offers significantly reduced CO₂ emissions (up to 90% reduction), as well as reductions in NO_x and particulate emissions by 30% and 70% respectively.
- 4.3** HVO can be used interchangeably with conventional Diesel fuels in vehicles, no treatment or vehicle modifications are required.
- 4.4** HVO will be rolled out to AOF, CTA and T5D fuel sites from 14th March onwards.
- 4.5** In line with Heathrow's environmental objectives and to provide a cleaner, more sustainable Airfield operation, Heathrow will be switching its conventionally powered vehicle fleet to use HVO.
- 4.6** For more information on the benefits of HVO, please see <https://www.thewp-group.co.uk/how-we-are-fuelling-change/hvo-fuels/>
- 4.7** Operating companies who also wish to take advantage of the benefits of HVO should contact their Airport Energy account manager.

5. Enquires

Any questions regarding this Notice should be directed to the Airside Operations Standards Team at airside@heathrow.com

