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THE USE OF JET FUEL IN DIESEL POWERED AIRCRAFT

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The practice of fitting diesel (compression ignition) engines to general aviation aircraft is becoming more prevalent with a number of aviation authorities around the world certificating aircraft with diesel engines to run on jet fuel. It appears, however, that not all relevant jet fuel properties were fully considered during the engine certification process. As a result, the aviation industry is in the process of addressing key jet fuel properties as they apply to diesel engines in order to mitigate any potential fuel property issues. Properties currently being evaluated include ignition quality, low temperature and lubricity. The appropriateness of using Jet engine tested and approved additives in diesel engines will also be discussed.