

FAQs

New fuel labelling in Spain

1. Why has the new labelling been brought in?

As a consequence of the transposition of Directive 2014/94/EU, fuel labelling in Spain has had to be modified. The new labels standardise fuel terminology throughout the EU, making it easier to identify the different fuels on a uniform basis for all citizens, irrespective of their language or country of origin.

They also improve the information that users receive, helping consumers to choose the most appropriate fuel to care for air quality, reducing the emission of particles that are harmful to health, their vehicle and the environment, and reducing CO2 emissions.

The scope of application will cover the 28 Member States of the European Union, the countries of the EEA (Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway), as well as Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

2. Since when has the new labelling been in force in Spain?

In Spain a new combined, single and standardised fuel labelling system has been in force since 12 October 2018 for petrol stations and new vehicles.

3. What types of fuel do the labels represent?

The labels used for petrol are circular, with the "E" denoting Ethanol, and the number alongside the percentage ethanol in the mixture. The types of petrol are E5, E10 and E85.

TYPES OF PETROL



- E5 fuel comprises 95% petrol and 5% ethanol. It serves to reduce CO2 emissions by 3.5% compared with petrol.
- E10 fuel comprises 90% petrol and 10% ethanol. It serves to reduce CO2 emissions by 7% compared with petrol.
- E85 fuel comprises 15% petrol and 85% ethanol. It serves to reduce CO2 emissions by 60% compared with petrol.

Ethanol reduces CO2 emissions by 70% compared with petrol. As may be seen, the use of ethanol in the mixture significantly reduces pollutant emissions from transport. The use of fuels with a high percentage of ethanol would in itself, without the need for major changes to infrastructure and vehicles, more than meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

The labels referring to diesel are square, with "B" standing for Biodiesel, while the number indicates the percentage biodiesel in the mixture. The types of diesel are B7, B10 and XTL.

TYPES OF DIESEL



- B7 fuel comprises 93% diesel and 7% biodiesel.
- B10 fuel comprises 90% diesel and 10% biodiesel.
- XTL refers to synthetic diesel.

As for gaseous fuels, they use a diamond-shaped label with the initials of the corresponding fuel.

TYPES OF GAS



- H2 for hydrogen.
- CNG for compressed natural gas.
- LPG for liquefied petroleum gas.
- LNG for liquefied natural gas.

4. Do they replace the current fuels?

No, the labelling simply supplements the information about the current fuels. The labels do not replace the trading names, which will be retained. Their aim is to supplement those in existence, for the sole purpose of providing consumers with as much information as possible.

5. Where will we see the labels?

Aside from the mandatory inclusion of these labels at petrol station pumps and on the nozzle, Directive 2014/94/EU also requires them to be marked on vehicles (cars, motorbikes, trikes, quads, mopeds, vans, trucks, buses and coaches) sold for the first time or registered after 12 October 2018. They must be displayed close to the fuel tank cap or cover, and indicated in the user manual.

6. Why do SP95 and SP98 petrols have the same labels in Spain?

Both petrols are labelled "E5" because they have the same ethanol content (5%) in the mixture, the only difference being other additives. This is because Spain has not yet developed regulations allowing for the use of more environmentally friendly and advanced fuels, such as E10, which have now been introduced in some European countries.