

Technical Note to Tractor Owners using TVO

TVME is affiliated to the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC), which liaises with both the UK DVLA and the EEC authorities to protect the interests of the historic vehicle movement in the UK.

Recently they obtained an important concession from HM Revenue and Customs regarding the use of Tractor Vaporizing Oil in tractors built before 1960.

TVO has not been available for purchase from garages for some years, and owners blending their own fuel using petrol and gasoil/red diesel have been in contravention of the law, except for vehicles used solely in agriculture. The concession now allows the mixing of petrol and heating oil (kerosene) but only in the vehicle's tank.

FBHVC has obtained the following concession for owner using their vehicles on the road to attend rallies and the like:

'HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will, under the conditions set out below, extend the General Licence issued under regulation 43 of the Hydrocarbon Oil Regulations. This allows the mixing of rebated kerosene with other road fuels (but not red diesel) for vintage tractors constructed before 1960. This concession will enable your members to obtain marked kerosene legitimately.

Mixing will only be permitted in the fuel tanks of the vehicles concerned and the mixture is not to be used in any other vehicle. It is not permissible to mix these oils in bulk for resale. Any instances of misuse may result in the withdrawal of the concession and any breach of the terms of the licence may constitute an offence.

Regulation 43 of the Hydrocarbon Oil Regulations 1973 (SI 1973/13111)

1. Subject to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 below, all members of FBHVC subscriber clubs are hereby licensed by the Commissioners of Revenue and Customs to mix, or have mixed on their behalf, heavy oil (kerosene) in respect of which a rebate has been allowed under Section 11 of the Hydrocarbon Duties Act 1979 (henceforth HODA) with any light of heavy oil in respect of which no rebate has been allowed
 2. This licence does not permit the use of rebated gas oil (red diesel) under any circumstances except where the tractor is being used for bona fide agricultural, horticultural or forestry work pursuant to Schedule 1 section 2 of HODA 1979.
 3. This licence permits the mixing described in paragraph 1 above only in the fuel tanks of tractors manufactured before 1960 and for use as a fuel only in propelling the engines of those vehicles.
 4. This licence does not permit any mixing of different descriptions of hydrocarbon oil in bulk or for resale.
- This licence is valid until revoked or varied by the Commissioners.'