CLAIMS:

1. The use of a complex ester obtained by an esterification reaction between

(A) at least one aliphatic linear or branched C_2- to C_{12}-dicarboxylic acid,

(B) at least one aliphatic linear or branched polyhydroxy alcohol with 3 to 6 hydroxyl groups, and

(C) as a chain stopping agent

(C1) at least one aliphatic linear or branched C_1- to C_{30}-monocarboxylic acid in case of an excess of component (B), or

(C2) at least one aliphatic linear or branched monobasic C_1- to C_{30}-alcohol

in case of an excess of component (A),

as an additive in a fuel for reducing fuel consumption in the operation of an internal combustion engine with this fuel.

2. The use of a complex ester as described in claim 1 as an additive in a fuel for minimization of power loss in internal combustion engines and for improving acceleration of internal combustion engines.

3. The use of a complex ester as described in claim 1 as an additive in a fuel for improving the lubricity of lubricant oils contained in an internal combustion engine for lubricating purposes by operating the internal combustion engine with a fuel containing an effective amount of at least one of the said complex esters.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein component (A) is selected from aliphatic linear C_6- to C_{10}-dicarboxylic acids.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein component (B) is selected from glycerin, trimethylolpropane and pentaerythritol.

6. The use according to any one of claims 1 or 5, wherein component (C) is selected from (C1) aliphatic linear or branched C_8- to C_{18}-monocarboxylic acids, or from (C2) linear or branched C_8- to C_{18}-alkanols.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the complex ester is composed of from 2 to 9 molecule units of component (A) and of from 3 to 10 molecule units of component (B), component (B) being in excess compared with component (A), with remaining free hydroxyl groups of (B) being completely or partly capped with a corresponding number of molecule units of component (C1).

8. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the complex ester is composed of from 3 to 10 molecule units of component (A) and of from 2 to 9 molecule units of component (B), component (A) being in excess compared with component (B), with remaining free carboxyl groups of (A) being completely or partly capped with a corresponding number of molecule units of component (C2).

9. A fuel composition comprising, in a major amount, a gasoline fuel and, in a minor amount, at least one complex ester as described in any one of claims 1 and 4 to 8, and at least one fuel additive which is different from the said complex esters and has detergent action.

10. The fuel composition according to claim 9 comprising as the fuel additive which is different from the said complex esters and has detergent action, at least one representative (D) selected from:

(Da) mono- or polyamino groups having up to 6 nitrogen atoms, at least one nitrogen atom having basic properties;

(Db) nitro groups, optionally in combination with hydroxyl groups;

(Dc) hydroxyl groups in combination with mono- or polyamino groups, at least one nitrogen atom having basic properties;

(Dd) carboxyl groups or their alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts;

(De) sulfonic acid groups or their alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts;

(Df) polyoxy-C_2-C_4-alkylene moieties terminated by hydroxyl groups, mono- or polyamino groups, at least one nitrogen atom having basic properties, or by carbamate groups;

(Dg) carboxylic ester groups;

(Dh) moieties derived from succinic anhydride and having hydroxyl and/or amino and/or amido and/or imido groups; and/or

(Di) moieties obtained by Mannich reaction of substituted phenols with aldehydes and mono- or polyamines.

11. The fuel composition according to claim 9 or 10, additionally comprising, as a further fuel additive in a minor amount, at least one carrier oil.

12. The fuel composition according to any one of claims 9 to 11, additionally comprising, as a further fuel additive in a minor amount, at least one tertiary hydrocarbyl amine of formula $NR^1R^2R^3$ wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are the same or different C_1- to C_{20}-hydrocarbyl residues with the proviso that the overall number of carbon atoms in

formula $NR^1R^2R^3$ does not exceed 30.

13. The fuel composition according to any one of claims 9 to 12, comprising at least one representative (D) selected from (Da) polyisobutene monoamines or polyisobutene poly-amines having M_n = 300 to 5000, having at least 50 mol-% of vinylidene double bonds and having been prepared by hydroformylation of the respective polyisobutene and subsequent reductive amination with ammonia, monoamines or polyamines, in combination with at least one mineral or synthetic carrier oil.

14. An additive concentrate comprising at least one complex ester as described in any one of claims 1 and 4 to 8, and at least one fuel additive which is different from the said complex esters and has detergent action.

15. An additive concentrate according to claim 14, comprising at least one representtative (D) selected from (Da) polyisobutene monoamines or polyisobutene polyamines having M_n = 300 to 5000, having at least 50 mol-% of vinylidene double bonds and having been prepared by hydroformylation of the respective polyisobutene and subsequent reductive amination with ammonia, monoamines or polyamines, and further comprising at least one mineral or synthetic carrier oil.