as minor constituents within the B100 and are more soluble in the B100 than in mineral fuels and hence in Bx blends. Furthermore, it is thought that as the polarity of the mineral fuel is decreased for example removal of sulphur, the solubility of these constituents will be even less and the problem will be exacerbated.

In the light of differences, in the nature of these precipitation phenomena below and above the cloud point, additives developed to solve a problem arising from precipitation below the cloud point, predominantly in mineral fuels, are not promising starting points to solve a problem arising from precipitation in a Bx fuel, arising from the fuel component derived from an animal or vegetable oil. Indeed, it must be borne in mind that Bx fuels have already contained additives of the type used to improve flow properties below the cloud point; and yet the new problems of higher temperature filter blocking have still arisen.

However, we have now found that, unexpectedly, there is one class of additive which is particularly effective at improving the flow properties, and hence the filterability, of Bx fuels above the cloud point. This class was already known to improve the flow properties of fuels below the cloud point. The finding of one class of additive which:

(a) improves the flow properties of fuels having an animal or vegetable origin above the cloud point, and

(b) improves the flow properties of fuels, including mineral fuels, below the cloud point;

notwithstanding the different nature of the fuels and, in particular, the different nature of the respective problems and precipitates, is serendipitous.

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is provided the use of a reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment – NR^1R^2 where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof, in order to improve the filterability of a Bx fuel above the cloud point of the Bx fuel; wherein the Bx fuel comprises fuel derived from animal or vegetable oil sources admixed with fuel derived from mineral or synthetic sources; wherein the Bx fuel has a sulphur content less than 200ppm; wherein the Bx fuel contains at least 4 wt% of fuel derives from animal or vegetable sources; and wherein the additive is present in the Bx fuel in an amount (as active material) of from 10 mg/kg up to 200 mg/kg.

Also disclosed is a method of providing an improved Bx fuel, by the presence of an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment – NR^1R^2 where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof.

fuel, preferably up to 80 mg/kg fuel, preferably up to 60 mg/kg fuel, preferably up to 45 mg/kg fuel.

The additive may be added to Bx fuel which is known to exhibit a filtration problem above the cloud point, to reduce the problem or, preferably, to obviate the problem by preventing precipitation above the cloud point.

Reducing or solving the problem may be achieved by reducing the size or quantity of the precipitates which may appear in the Bx fuel above the cloud point, or by controlling the morphology of the precipitates in the Bx fuel above the cloud point.

Preferably, however, the additive is added to Bx fuel in order to prevent the emergence of precipitates above the cloud point. By preventing the emergence of precipitates above the cloud point we mean that detectable precipitates do not appear in the Bx fuel under normal storage or use conditions.

Also disclosed is the use of an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment – NR^1R^2 where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) a carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof, in order to maintain the filterability of the Bx fuel above the cloud point of the Bx fuel.

Also disclosed is the use of an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment – NR^1R^2 where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) a carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof in order to prevent the emergence of precipitates in the Bx fuel above the cloud point of the Bx fuel.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of providing a Bx fuel with improves filterability above its cloud point, the fuel including an additive which is the reaction of product of (i) a compound containing the segment – NR^1R^2 where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) an optionally substituted benzene dicarboxylic acid or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof, wherein the Bx fuel has a sulphur content less than 200ppm and contains at least 4 wt% of fuel derived from animal or vegetable sources; and wherein the additive is present in the Bx fuel in an amount (as active material) of from 10 mg/kg up to 200 mg/kg so as to provide said improved filterability.

~~the use of an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) a carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof, in order to maintain the filterability of the Bx fuel above the cloud point of the Bx fuel.~~

In accordance with a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a Bx fuel comprising a fuel additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment – NR^1R^2 where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) an optionally substituted benzene dicarboxylic acid or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof, wherein the Bx fuel has a sulphur content less than 200ppm and contains at least 4 wt% of fuel derived from animal or vegetable sources; and wherein the additive is present in the Bx fuel in an amount (as active material) of from 10 mg/kg up to 200 mg/kg so as to provide improved filterability of the Bx fuel above the cloud point of the Bx fuel.

~~use of an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) a carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof in order to prevent the emergence of precipitates in the Bx fuel above the cloud point of the Bx fuel.~~

Aspects and preferred features described above following presentation of the first aspect apply also to the second aspect and third aspect, including: ways in which filterability may be maintained; ways in which precipitation may be controlled, inhibited or prevented; preferred compounds (i) and (ii); preferred ratios of (I) to (II); preferred Bx fuels; and preferred concentrations of the additive in the Bx fuel.

Also disclosed is~~In accordance with a fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided~~ a Bx fuel having improved flow properties above the cloud point of the Bx fuel, the fuel comprising an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride or acid halide thereof.

Also disclosed is~~In accordance with a fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided~~ an additive composition comprising an additive which is the reaction product of (i) a compound containing the segment $-NR^1R^2$ where R^1 represents a group containing from 4 to 44 carbon atoms and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a group R^1, and (ii) a carboxylic acid having from 1 to 4 carboxylic acid groups or an acid anhydride thereof in a solvent.

Also disclosed is~~In accordance with a sixth aspect of the present invention there is provided~~ a method of improving the filter blocking tendency of a Bx fuel by addition of an additive as defined in any preceding claim.

The invention will now be further described, by way of example, with reference to the following test descriptions.