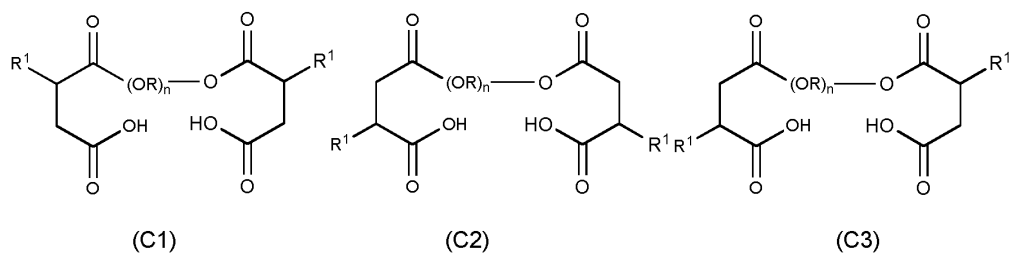


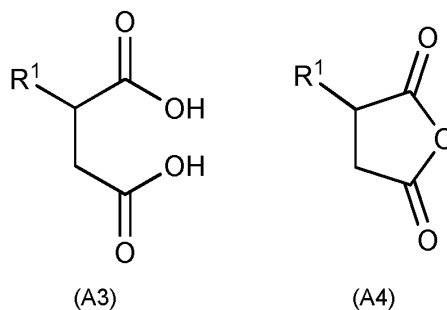
Claims

1. A diesel fuel composition comprising as an additive an ester compound which is the reaction product of a polyhydric alcohol of formula $H-(OR)_n-OH$ and at least 1.5 molar equivalents of an optionally substituted polycarboxylic acid or an anhydride thereof, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkylene group and n is at least 1.
2. A method of combatting deposits in a diesel engine, the method comprising combusting in the engine a diesel fuel composition comprising as an additive the reaction product of a polyhydric alcohol of formula $H-(OR)_n-OH$ and at least 1.5 molar equivalents of an optionally substituted polycarboxylic acid or an anhydride thereof, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkylene group and n is at least 1.
3. Use of an ester compound as a detergent additive in a diesel fuel composition in a diesel engine; wherein the ester compound is the reaction product of a polyhydric alcohol of formula $H-(OR)_n-OH$ and at least 1.5 molar equivalents of an optionally substituted polycarboxylic acid or an anhydride thereof, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkylene group and n is at least 1.
4. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the optionally substituted polycarboxylic acid or anhydride thereof is a hydrocarbyl substituted succinic acid or a hydrocarbyl substituted succinic anhydride.
5. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein each R is ethylene or propylene, preferably $-CH_2CH_2-$ or $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, more preferably $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$; and n is from 1 to 20.
6. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the polycarboxylic acid or anhydride thereof includes an optionally substituted alkyl or alkenyl group having 6 to 100 carbon atoms, preferably 6 to 50 carbon atoms.
7. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the optionally substituted polycarboxylic acid or hydrocarbyl substituted anhydride and alcohol of formula $H-(OR)_n-OH$ are reacted in a ratio of from 2.5:1 to 1.8:1.
8. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the additive comprises compounds of formula (C1), (C2) or (C3):



5 and isomers and mixtures thereof.

9. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the additive comprises the reaction product of an alcohol of formula $H-(OR)_n-OH$ selected from ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, tetrapropylene glycol, trehalose, sorbitol, glycerol, pentaerythritol, trimethylolpropane, 1,3-propanediol, 1,2-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol and a polyethylene or polypropylene glycol having a number average molecular weight of 300 to 1200; and at least 1.5 molar equivalents of one or more optionally substituted succinic acids or anhydrides of formula (A3) or (A4):

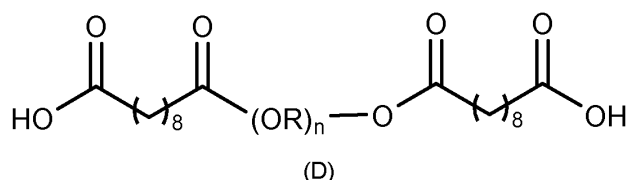


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wherein each R^1 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 6 to 36 carbon atoms or a polyisobutenyl group having a number average molecular weight of from 200 to 1300.

10. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the additive comprises the reaction product an alcohol selected from 1,2-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, tripropylene glycol and polypropylene glycols having a number average molecular weight of from 300 to 600 and at least 1.5 molar equivalents of a succinic acid or anhydride having a C_{20} to C_{24} alkyl or alkenyl substituent.

11. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the additive comprises a compound of formula (D):



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12. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the diesel engine is a modern diesel engine having a high pressure fuel system.
- 10 13. A method or use according to any of claims 2 to 12 which achieves "keep clean" performance.
14. A method or use according to any of claims 2 to 13 which achieves "clean up" performance.
- 15 15. A method or use according to any of claims 2 to 14 wherein the deposits are injector deposits.
16. A method or use according to claim 15 wherein the deposits are internal diesel injector deposits.
- 20 17. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the diesel fuel composition comprises less than 50 ppm sulphur by weight.
- 25 18. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the diesel fuel composition comprises biodiesel.
19. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the diesel fuel composition comprises one or more further detergents selected from:
- 30 (i) a quaternary ammonium salt additive;
- (ii) the product of a Mannich reaction between an aldehyde, an amine and an optionally substituted phenol;
- 35 (iii) the reaction product of a carboxylic acid-derived acylating agent and an amine;

- (iv) the reaction product of a carboxylic acid-derived acylating agent and hydrazine;
- (v) a salt formed by the reaction of a carboxylic acid with di-n-butylamine or tri-n-butylamine;
- (vi) the reaction product of a hydrocarbyl-substituted dicarboxylic acid or anhydride and an amine compound or salt which product comprises at least one amino triazole group; and
- (vii) a substituted polyaromatic detergent additive.
20. A composition, method or use according to any preceding claim wherein the diesel fuel composition comprises a mixture of two or more ester additives.
21. A method or use according to any of claims 2 to 20 which achieves an improvement in performance selected from one or more of:
- a reduction in power loss of the engine;
 - a reduction in external diesel injector deposits;
 - a reduction in internal diesel injector deposits;
 - an improvement in fuel economy;
 - a reduction in fuel filter deposits;
 - a reduction in emissions; and
 - an increase in maintenance intervals.
22. A method or use according to claim 21 which provides an improvement in performance in modern diesel engines having a high pressure fuel system and provides an improvement in performance in traditional diesel engines.
23. Use according to any of claims 3 to 22 which provides one or more further benefits selected from lubricity benefits, corrosion inhibition and cold flow improvement.
24. A composition according to any of claims 1 or 4 to 20 which further comprises one or more further additives selected from lubricity improvers, corrosion inhibitors and cold flow improvers.
25. Use of an ester additive as defined in any preceding claim to reduce the treat rate of one or more further additives selected from lubricity improvers, corrosion inhibitors and cold flow improvers whilst maintaining performance.