

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 September 2003 (04.09.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/072687 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C10L 1/02**, 1/32

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/00424

(22) International Filing Date: 31 January 2003 (31.01.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0202312.5 31 January 2002 (31.01.2002) GB

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,

MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)*
- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

- *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: POLYAPHRON FUEL COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: A fuel composition which comprises a biliquid foam consisting of from 10 % to 97.5 % by weight of non-coalescing droplets of a non-polar liquid comprising a petroleum derivative, paraffin or a liquid halogenated hydrocarbon and from 2 to 87 % by weight of a continuous phase polar liquid comprising a C₁-C₃ alcohol, a C₄ alcohol containing at least two hydroxy groups, or ethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof, in an amount of from 60 % to 100 % by weight thereof, wherein the biliquid foam is stabilized with an amount of from 0.5 to 3.0 % by weight based on the total formulation of a surfactant which is selected from castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adducts containing from 20 to 50 alkoxy groups, or hydrogenated castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adducts containing from 20 to 60 alkoxy groups, or mixtures thereof.



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POLYAPHRON FUEL COMPOSITIONS

5 The present invention relates to polyaphron (or
bilibiquid foam) compositions and in particular to
polyaphron fuel compositions which have a high level
of an organic oxygenate in the continuous phase.

10 Nitrogen oxides comprise a major irritant and
pollutant in the atmosphere. Environmental pressures
and government regulations have increased the need to
reduce NO_x emissions from internal combustion engines.
One problem with using diesel-fuelled engines is that
relatively high temperatures are reached during
combustion, thereby increasing the tendency of
nitrogen from the air, or from nitrogen compounds
15 present in the fuel, to be oxidised to nitrogen
oxides. Various methods have been preposed for
reducing the production of NO_x, including the use of
catalytic convertors, the use of clean fuels, the
adjustment of the engine tuning etc. These methods
20 have not achieved a widespread use. The rate at which
nitrogen oxides are produced is related to the
combustion temperature and a small reduction in
combustion temperature can result in a large reduction
in the production of nitrogen oxides.

25 Emulsified fuels have been shown to provide
significant advantages in relation to the control of
emissions from internal combustion engines,
particularly NO_x emissions, by lowering the peak
combustion temperature of the fuel.

30 The emulsified fuel compositions which have
previously been proposed in the art are water-in-oil
emulsions. For example, US Patent No. 5669938
discloses a fuel composition which consists of (i) a
water-in-oil emulsion comprising a major proportion of
35 a hydrocarbonaceous middle distillate fuel and about 1
to 40 volume percent water (ii) a co-emulsion and

particulate reducing amount of at least one fuel-soluble organic ignition improver and other optional ingredients.

5 EP-B-0475620 discloses a diesel fuel composition which comprises (a) a diesel fuel, (b) 1.0 to 3.0 weight percent of water based upon the diesel fuel, (c) a cetane number improver additive in an amount of up to less than 20.0 weight percent based upon the water, and (d) 0.5 to 15 weight percent based upon the
10 diesel fuel of a mixed surfactant system as defined.

EP-A-0561600 discloses a water-in-oil emulsion comprising a discontinuous aqueous phase containing at least one oxygen-supplying component such as ammonium nitrate, a continuous organic phase comprising at
15 least one carbonaceous fuel, and a minor emulsifying amount of at least one emulsifier as defined.

WO-A-01/04239 discloses a process for making an aqueous hydrocarbon fuel composition comprising: (A) mixing a normally liquid hydrocarbon fuel and at least
20 one chemical additive to form a hydrocarbon fuel-additive mixture; and (B) mixing the hydrocarbon fuel-additive mixture with water under high shear mixing conditions in a high shear mixer to form said aqueous hydrocarbon fuel composition, said aqueous hydrocarbon
25 fuel composition including a discontinuous aqueous phase, said discontinuous aqueous phase being comprised of aqueous droplets having a mean diameter of 1.0 micrometres or less.

WO-A-00/15740 discloses an emulsified water-blended fuel composition comprising (A) a hydrocarbon
30 boiling in the gasoline or diesel range, (B) water, (C) a minor emulsifying amount of at least one fuel soluble salt made by reacting an acylating agent having about 16 to 500 carbon atoms with ammonia or an
35 amine, and (D) about 0.001 to 15% by weight of the water-blended fuel composition of a water-insoluble amine salt distinct from component (C).

The water-in-oil emulsified fuels of the prior art suffer from some significant disadvantages.

First, they need to contain high levels of emulsifiers to generate stable systems.

5 Investigations have shown that the effectiveness of the reduction in NO_x-emissions depends upon the stability of the emulsion. For a reliable operation it is necessary to create an emulsion with a minimum stability of more than 13 minutes. Secondly, because
10 the continuous phase is oil and not water they do not present the ignition source with the water first and therefore do not cool the charge immediately, resulting in the less efficient use of the water contained in the emulsion to give a cleaner burn.
15 Thirdly, there is a limit to the level of organic oxygenate compounds that can be included in these systems because of stability issues. These fuels suffer from a sluggish drive compared to a standard fuel which is a particular disadvantage in situations
20 where power-loss can be unacceptable, such as non-static engines.

Biliquid foams are known in the art in which small droplets of a non-polar liquid such as an oil are encapsulated in a surfactant-stabilized film of a
25 hydrogen bonded liquid, such as water, and separated from one another by a thin film of the hydrogen bonded liquid. The water or other hydrogen bonded liquid thus forms the continuous phase in biliquid foam compositions.

30 US-A-4486333 discloses a method for the preparation of biliquid foam compositions which may comprise the non-polar liquid in a total amount of about 60% to about 98% by volume, the hydrogen bonded liquid constituting the balance. The non-polar liquid
35 may comprise a petroleum derivative, paraffin or a liquid halogenated hydrocarbon. The biliquid fuel composition prepared comprising 96% by volume methanol

and 4% by volume water had a limited stability of only several days.

Accordingly, there is a need to generate cleaner fuels with lower emissions, especially in the diesel fuel sector. There is also a requirement from the consumer not to compromise on the power output of the fuel. There is also a desire for safer fuels and, in particular, fuels with a reduced or more acceptable odour.

We have now developed a biliquid fuel composition which meets these requirements and which comprises an aqueous continuous phase with a high alcohol level. This results in a more acceptable odour, lower emissions and a safer fuel with no loss of power. The bifluid fuel composition is safer to the environment as it has a polar continuous phase, and therefore in the case of spillage it can be washed away as it is water disperisble. The presence of organic oxygenates will also lower the freezing point compared to a fuel in water only composition. Furthermore, the bifluid fuel composition which we have developed has improved storage stability as compared with the prior art compositions disclosed in US-A-4486333.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a fuel composition which comprises a biliquid foam consisting of from 10% to 97.5% by weight of non-coalescing droplets of a non-polar liquid comprising a petroleum derivative, paraffin or a liquid halogenated hydrocarbon and from 2 to 87% by weight of a continuous phase polar liquid comprising a C₁-C₃ alcohol, a C₄ alcohol containing at least two hydroxy groups, or ethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof, in an amount of from 60% to 100% by weight thereof, wherein the biliquid foam is stabilized with an amount of from 0.5 to 3.0% by weight based on the total formulation of a surfactant which is selected from castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adducts containing from 20 to 50 alkoxy groups, or hydrogenated castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adducts containing from 20 to 60 alkoxy groups, or mixtures

thereof.

The biliquid fuel of the present invention preferably comprises from 60% to 90% by weight of the fuel, more preferably from 75% to 85% by weight of the fuel. The preferred fuel for use in the present invention is diesel, gasoline or kerosene.

The polar liquid preferably comprises from 50% to 99% by weight of the C₁-C₄ alcohol or ethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof. The balance of the polar liquid is preferably water, in particular deionized water. The preferred polar liquids for use in the invention are methanol or ethanol, or mixtures thereof.

The particular classes of surfactant used in the present invention have been selected for use because of their ability to assist in the preparation of the biliquid fuel compositions and because they impart long term stability (e.g. 30 to 90 days) upon the majority of the biliquid fuel compositions of the present invention prepared using them.

The preferred classes of surfactants for use in the present invention are hydrogenated castor oil/polyethylene glycol adducts containing from 25 to 50 ethoxy groups, more preferably 40 to 45 ethoxy groups or castor oil/polyethylene glycol adducts containing from 25 to 45 ethoxy groups.

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the choice of surfactant will also depend upon the particular fuel and the particular polar liquid and the amount thereof which are used in the preparation of the bifluid fuels.

Polyisobutylene succinimide esters or polyisobutylene succinimide amines or Mannich bases, known to those skilled in the art as ashless dispersants, may be used as co-surfactants in the present invention.

The preferred amount of surfactant for use in the present invention is about 1% by weight based on the

total formulation.

The biliquid fuel compositions of the present invention may also contain other additives such as preservatives (for instance to prevent microbiological spoilage), corrosion inhibitors, lubricity improves cleaning/detergent additives, urea and other additives. These additives may be included in the non-polar liquid or the continuous phase to enhance the performance and address legislative requirements.

It will be understood that the inclusion of these additives will be at the levels and with the type of materials which are found to be effective and useful. Care needs to be taken in the choice and amount of these additives to prevent compromise to the other performance advantages of the present invention.

Methods of producing biliquid foams are described in US-A-4486333 involving the preliminary formation of a gas foam in order to provide a sufficiently large surface area on which the biliquid foam can subsequently be formed. It has been found that the prior formation of a gas foam is not required to manufacture a stable biliquid foam, provided that a suitable stirring mechanism is provided in the manufacturing vessel. An important aspect of the present invention is the ability to manufacture biliquid foams suitable for use as a fuel composition without the preliminary formation of gas foam, by the use of a tank incorporating a suitable stirring mechanism.

Such an apparatus comprises a tank provided with a stirrer in which the stirrer blade breaks the interface between the liquid and air. A delivery device is provided through which the oil phase (non-polar liquid), which will comprise the internal phase of the dispersion is delivered to the tank. The design of the delivery device is such that the rate of addition of the internal phase fluid can be controlled

and varied during the production process. A feature of the production process is that the internal (oil) phase is added to the stirred aqueous phase slowly at first until sufficient droplets have been formed to constitute a large, additional surface area for the more rapid formation of new droplets. At this point, the rate of addition of the oil phase may be increased.

The present invention will be further described with reference to the following Examples.

EXAMPLES 1 to 24 and
Comparative EXAMPLES A to C

Biliquid fuel composition were prepared in 50g batches by adding to a 250ml squat beaker of 67ml internal diameter a premixed and homogeneous methanol, ethanol and/or ethylene glycol-water mixture and surfactant. A 4 blade axial flow impeller of diameter 55mm was lowered into the beaker to agitate the aqueous phase ensuring that the impeller cut the air/liquid interface and was rotated at 200rpm. The fuel was slowly added dropwise to the aqueous phase over a ten to fifteen minute period of time. After all of the fuel had been added, the mixture was stirred for a further fifteen minutes to form the desired biliquid fuel compositions.

The results obtained for compositions comprising 80% by weight diesel, 1% by weight surfactant and 19% by weight of alcohol-water mixture are given in Table 1 below. The percentage column in Table 1 for the alcohol refers to the percentage in the alcohol-water mixture.

In Comparative Examples A, B and C, the compositions comprise the surfactants Protachem CAH-16, Etocas 15 and Protachem CA-200, which do not fall

within the scope of the present invention.

- Where stability is given in days this is the point at which instability occurred. Where it is stated with '+' after the number, this means that the
- 5 sample has not been observed to be unstable in that time and storage is ongoing. All samples were monitored for storage stability at ambient temperature. (ca.20-25°C).

TABLE 1

Ex. No.	Alcohol	(%)	Surfactant	Stability in days	Comments on stability.
1	Ethanol	70	Croduret 50	91+	Only slight oil on surface.
2	Ethanol	80	Croduret 50	91+	Some foaming and slight oil on surface.
3	Ethanol	85	Croduret 50	85+	Some oil on surface. After 81 days some decomposition on the upper layer is noticed.
4	Ethanol	90	Croduret 50	8	After 8 days sample begins to show some signs of decomposition.
5	Methanol	70	Croduret 50	90+	Only slight oil on surface.
6	Methanol	80	Croduret 50	90+	Some oil on surface.
7	Methanol	90	Croduret 50	90+	Some oil on surface.
8	Methanol	100	Croduret 50	44	After 44 days the amount of oil begins to increase on surface. After that sample begins slowly to decompose.
9	Ethylene-glycol	70	Croduret 50	82+	No changes.

TABLE 1 Continued

10	Ethylene-glycol	80	Croduret 50	82+	Some foaming, no other changes.
11	Ethylene-glycol	90	Croduret 50	82+	No changes.
12	Ethylene-glycol	95	Croduret 50	82+	Some foaming, slight oil on surface.
13	Ethanol Methanol	35 35	Croduret 50	69+	No changes.
14	Ethanol Ethylene glycol	35 35	Croduret 50	69+	No changes.
15	Ethanol	70	Croduret 25	70+	Some oil on surface.
16	Ethanol	70	Croduret 25*	70+	Slight oil on surface.
17	Ethanol	70	Croduret 25**	70+	Some oil on surface.
18	Ethanol	70	Croduret 40LD	15+	No changes.
19	Ethanol	70	Protachem CAH-60	15+	No changes.

TABLE 1 Continued

20	Ethanol	70	Etocas 25	3	After three days, the amount of free oil begins to increase.
21	Ethanol	70	Protachem CA-30	3	After 6 days a lot of free oil on surface, and some decomposition.
22	Ethanol	70	Etocas 35	48	After 48 days decomposition of sample leading to free oil and instability.
23	Ethanol	70	Etocas 40	18	After 18 days gradual decomposition begins.
24	Ethanol	70	Protachem CA-40	60+	Beginning to decompose gradually, but still stable overall.
Comp A	Ethanol	70	Protachem CAH-16	< 1	Begins to decompose gradually.
Comp B	Ethanol	70	Etocas 15	few min	Product is stable for 5-10 minutes.
Comp C	Ethanol	70	Protachem CA-200	few min	Stable only for a few minutes.

EXAMPLE 25

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated substituting unleaded petrol for the diesel fuel. The
5 resulting biliquid fuel was stable for 64 days after which some instability was seen.

EXAMPLE 26

10 The procedure of Example 1 was repeated substituting kerosene for the diesel fuel. The resulting biliquid fuel was stable for 43 days after which the sample began to show some signs of
15 instability.

EXAMPLE 27

The procedure of Example 1 was repeated for a composition comprising 75% by weight of diesel fuel, 1% by
20 weight of Croduret 50 and 24% by weight of an ethanol-water mixture comprising 70% by weight of ethanol. The resulting bifluid fuel was stable for over 123 days.

EXAMPLES 28 to 32

25 The procedure of Example 1 was repeated for compositions comprising 85% by weight of diesel fuel, 1% of a surfactant and 14% by weight of an alcohol-water mixture. The results are given in Table 2 below. The percentage
30 column in Table 1 for the alcohol refers to the percentage in the alcohol-water mixture.

TABLE 2

Ex. No.	Alcohol	(%)	Surfactant	Stability in days	Comments on stability.
28	Ethanol	70	Croduret 50	126+	Stable.
29	Isopropyl- alcohol	70	Croduret 50	125+	Stable, with slight oil on surface
30	Ethanol	70	Croduret 25	169+	Stable, with slight oil on surface
31	Ethanol	70	Protachem CAH-60	126+	Stable
32	Ethanol	70	Croduret 40 LD	126+	Stable

Footnotes to Tables 1 and 2

* The surfactant was added to the oil phase

** The surfactant was included in both phases

5 (50:50)

Croduret 25, Croduret 40LD and Croduret 50 are Trade Names for hydrogenated castor oil/polyethylene glycol adducts available from Croda Chemicals Limited
10 where the suffixes 25, 40LD and 50 refer to increasing numbers of ethylene oxide groups in the polyethylene oxide chain.

Etocas 15, Etocas 25, Etocas 35 and Etocas 40 are Trade Names for castor oil/polyethylene glycol adducts
15 available from Croda Limited where the suffixes 15, 25, 35 and 40 refer to the number of ethylene oxide groups in the polyethylene oxide chain.

Protachem CA-30, Protachem CA-40 and Protachem CA-200 are Trade Names for castor oil/polyethylene glycol adducts available from Protameen Chemicals Inc.
20 where the suffixes CA-30, CA-40 and CA-200 refer to the number of ethylene oxide groups in the polyethylene oxide chain.

Protachem CAH-16 and CAH-60 are a Trade Names for
25 a hydrogenated castor oil/polyethylene glycol adducts available from Protameen Chemicals Inc. where the suffix CAH-16 and CAH-60 refers to the number of ethylene oxide groups in the polyethylene oxide chain.

30 **Comparative EXAMPLE D**

The teaching of Example 7 of US Patent No. 4486333 was repeated. A biliquid fuel composition was prepared by making a 0.5% solution of a silicone block copolymer L5614
35 in 96% methanol, foaming 5 ml of this solution and

gradually adding thereto 45ml of kerosene containing 0.1% Tergitol 15-S-3 with vigorous shaking after each addition of the oil phase.

5 The sample inverted after the addition of 75% (about 34 ml) of the oil phase.

EXAMPLE 33

10 The teaching of Example 7 of US Patent No. 4486333 was modified using as the sole surfactant 1% Croduret 50 in 96% methanol.

A bifluid fuel composition was prepared by stirring 5ml of the methanol solution and gradually adding thereto 45ml of kerosene using the stirring method as described in 15 Example 1. After all of the fuel had been added, the mixture was stirred at 300 rpm for a further 15 minutes to form the bifluid fuel composition.

The formulation remained stable for three weeks.

20 EXAMPLES 34 TO 37

Examples 35 to 38 illustrate the preparation of bifluid fuel compositions using isopropyl alcohol/water and isopropylalcohol/ethanol/water mixtures as the polar 25 liquid.

The bifluid fuels were prepared according to the teaching of Example 1 but with an addition time for the oil phase of 20 minutes and an additional stirring time of 20 minutes after completion of the oil addition. Examples 36 30 and 37 were prepared as 25g batches. The results obtained for compositions comprising 80% by weight of diesel, 1% of surfactant and 19% of an alcohol/water mixture are given in Table 3 below. The percentage column in Table 3 for the alcohol refers to the percentage in the alcohol-water 35 mixture.

TABLE 3

Ex. No.	Alcohol	(%)	Surfactant	Stability in days	Comments on stability.
34	Isopropyl alcohol	70	Croduret 50	16	Slight decomposition in upper layer after 5 days leading to progressive deterioration.
35	Isopropyl alcohol	65	Croduret 50	59	Slight decomposition in upper layer at first after 28 days leading to progressive decomposition.
36	Isopropyl alcohol Ethanol	35 35	Croduret 50	11	Free oil on the surface of sample at first followed by decomposition.
37	Isopropyl alcohol Ethanol	42 28	Croduret 50	11	Separation into two layers giving rapid decomposition.

EXAMPLE 38 TO 42

Examples 38 to 42 illustrate the preparation of bifluid fuel compositions using butylene glycol/water, butylene glycol/ethylene glycol/water or propylene glycol/water mixtures as the polar liquid.

The bifluid fuels were prepared according to the teaching of Example 1 but with an addition time for the oil phase of 20 minutes and an additional stirring time of 20 minutes after completion of the oil addition. The results obtained for compositions comprising 80% by weight of diesel, 1% of surfactant and 19% of the glycol/water mixture are given in Table 4 below. The percentage column in Table 4 for the glycol refers to the percentage in the glycol-water mixture.

TABLE 4

Ex. No.	Alcohol	(%)	Surfactant	Stability in days	Comments on stability.
38	Butylene glycol Ethylene glycol	35 35	Croduret 50	40+	Stable.
39	Butylene glycol Ethylene glycol	50 20	Croduret 50	40+	Stable.
40	Butylene glycol	60	Croduret 50	40+	Stable.
41	Butylene glycol	70	Croduret 50	39+	Stable.
42	Propylene glycol	70	Croduret 50	39+	Stable.

EXAMPLE 43

A bifluid fuel composition was prepared using the stirring method as described in Example 1 as a 25g sample using 80% by weight of kerosene Jet A1 fuel, 1% by weight Croduret 50 and 19% by weight of a 96% methanol - 4% water (by weight) mixture. The addition of the oil phase was carried out over a 20 minute period and the composition was stirred for an additional 20 minutes after completion of the oil addition.

The resulting composition was stable for 32 days after which time there was decomposition leading to progressive deterioration.

CLAIMS:

1. A fuel composition which comprises a biliquid foam consisting of from 10% to 97.5% by weight of non-coalescing droplets of a non-polar liquid comprising a petroleum derivative, paraffin or a liquid halogenated hydrocarbon and from 2 to 87% by weight of a continuous phase polar liquid comprising a C₁-C₃ alcohol, a C₄ alcohol containing at least two hydroxy groups, or ethylene glycol, or mixtures thereof, in an amount of from 60% to 100% by weight thereof, wherein the biliquid foam is stabilized with an amount of from 0.5 to 3.0% by weight based on the total formulation of a surfactant which is selected from castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adducts containing from 20 to 50 alkoxy groups, or hydrogenated castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adducts containing from 20 to 60 alkoxy groups, or mixtures thereof.

2. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of surfactant is about 1% by weight based on the total formulation.

3. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the surfactant comprises a hydrogenated castor oil/polyethylene glycol adduct containing from 25 to 50 ethoxy groups.

4. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the hydrogenated castor oil/polyethylene glycol adduct contains from 40 to 45 ethoxy groups.

5. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the surfactant comprises a castor oil/poly(alkylene glycol) adduct containing 25 to 45 ethoxy groups.

6. A fuel composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the polar liquid comprises from

70% to 99% by weight of the C₁-C₄ alcohol or ethylene glycol.

7. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein the balance of the polar liquid comprises water.

8. A fuel composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein non-polar liquid comprises from 60% to 90% by weight of the biliquid foam.

9. A fuel composition as claimed in claim 8 wherein the non-polar liquid comprises from 75% to 85% by weight of the biliquid foam.

10. A fuel composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the non-polar liquid comprises diesel, gasoline or kerosene fuel.

11. A fuel composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the C₁-C₄ alcohol is methanol or ethanol or a mixture thereof.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/00424

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C10L1/02 C10L1/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C10L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, API Data, CHEM ABS Data, COMPENDEX, BIOSIS, EMBASE, FSTA, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 486 333 A (SEBBA FELIX) 4 December 1984 (1984-12-04) cited in the application the whole document	1-11
A	SEBBA F ET AL: "POSSIBLE USE OF POLYAPHRONATED HYDROCARBONS AS JET FUELS--" 193RD ACS NATL. MEET. (DENVER 4/5-10/87) ACS DIV. PET. CHEM. PREPR. V32 N.2 560-64 (APR. 1987), XP008017419 VA. TECH;WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE page 564, line 7 - line 10	1-11
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 May 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/05/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Bertin-van Bommel, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/00424

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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