



## The Role of Isopropyl Alcohol in the Properties of Sudanese Reformat Gasoline

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### ABSTRACT

The role of isopropyl alcohol in the properties of Sudanese reformat gasoline (produced by the refinery located at Algily, Khartoum North city, in Sudan) was studied. The properties of the reformat gasoline which were investigated include, distillation, sulfur content, density, vapor pressure, oxidation stability, copper strip corrosion, gum existence, lead content, and the octane number. The addition of isopropyl alcohol (5 and 10% (v/v)) improved the properties of the Sudanese reformat gasoline to the limits assigned by American Society For Testing And Materials (ASTM) and Khartoum refinery. The motor octane number (MON) of the reformat gasoline was determined initially by the Cooperative Fuels Research engine (CFR engine), MON was found to be 88.5. Results revealed that the addition of isopropyl alcohol 5 and 10 % (v/v) to the Sudanese reformat gasoline shift the value of the (MON) to 94.1 and 96 respectively.

**Keywords:** Isopropyl alcohol, Sudanese gasoline properties, Motor octane number, Cooperative fuels research engine.

### INTRODUCTION

Additives and blending agents are added to the hydrocarbon mixture to improve the performance and stability of gasoline<sup>1</sup> These compounds include anti-knock agents, anti-oxidants, metal deactivators, lead scavengers, anti-rust agents, anti-icing agents, upper-cylinder lubricants, detergents, and

dyes<sup>2</sup>. Gasoline anti - knock additives are compounds which, when added to a gasoline fuel for spark ignition engines, raise its antiknock quality, which is expressed by octane numbers. The classes of compounds from which antiknock additives are selected include, Hydrocarbons of natural high octane number, aromatic amines and organo metallic compounds<sup>3</sup>

Other methods used to improve the quality of gasoline and increase its supply include polymerization, alkylation, isomerization, and reforming, using either heat or a catalyst to rearrange the molecular structure<sup>4,5</sup>.

Environmental friendly additives such as diethylamine, di isopropyl ether, moringa oil, acetone and many others are gasoline soluble chemicals that mix with reformat gasoline to enhance octane number of gasoline, with Ezeldin *et al.*, found that the addition of aniline and toluene improved the quality of Sudanese reformat gasoline through increasing its motor octane number (MON) (initially 88.5) to 93.8 and 95.5 in addition of aniline (5 and 10% (v/v)) and to 91 and 94.2 in addition of toluene (5 and 10% (v/v)). Ezeldin *et al.*, also found that when dimethylamine was added with different concentrations (5 and 10% (v/v)) to the Sudanese reformat gasoline the (MON) raised from 88.5 to 92.5 and 94.9, respectively<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>. Typically, they are derived from petroleum based raw materials and there.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

All chemicals used were of pure analytical reagent grade (AR). All solutions were prepared according to the usual analytical procedures.

Standard test methods, for the evaluation of distillation, density, vapour pressure, gum content, copper strip corrosion, oxidation stability, sulfur content and motor octane number reading in CFR engine were carried out according to the ASTM D 86, 1293, 323, 381, 93,514, 2624 and 2900 respectively<sup>10</sup>. Results are listed below in Table (1)

### Determination of lead concentration in gasoline by atomic absorption spectrophotometer method

#### Preparation of sample

In a 100 mL volumetric flask 30 mL of methyl isobutyle ketone and 5 mL of a buffer solution pH=10 were taken, then 0.1g of iodine and 5 mL of gasoline were transferred to the solution, finally the solution was completed to the mark with methyl isobutyl ketone<sup>11</sup>.

### Preparation of the standard lead (II) solution

A 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 ppm of lead (II) solutions were prepared by dissolving known weight of Pb (II) in known volume of deionized water.

### Blank of the instrument

The device was blanked with deionized water and then the sample was injected into the device where a process of atomization of lead in gasoline takes place (in the path of the light from the bulb short) and the device read the amount of lead directly<sup>12</sup>. Results are shown in table (1).

### The effect of adding different concentrations of isopropyl alcohol to Sudanese reformat gasoline

Isopropyl alcohol as additive is gasoline soluble chemicals which mixed with reformat gasoline to enhance its octane number. iso propyl alcohol was added to the reformat gasoline at different concentrations 5% and 10% (v/v) as follow:

- A 1000 ml of reformat gasoline was prepared at refrigerator temp. and transferred to glass container had fitting cover.
- The octane number of gasoline was measured by CFR engine, and all physicochemical properties of gasoline were also detected before the addition of acetone.
- Two glass container were filled with 1000 ml of reformat gasoline and by using a pipette iso propyl alcohol was added in different concentrations 5% and 10% (v/v) with shaking.
- The octane number of these blends was measured by CFR engine, and all physicochemical properties were also detected after the addition of isopropyl alcohol. Results are shown in table (1).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the table1 it is obvious that, the distillation test of reformat gasoline before and after treatment showed a decrease in the final boiling points (FBP), which give a strong evidence, that the quality of the reformat gasoline has improved after two additions of (5, 10% v/v) of isopropyl

alcohol. Also, the Initial Boiling Points (IBP) of the same reformat gasoline sample after treatment were decreased; this may be attributed to the conversion of some liquid petroleum gas (LPG) into fuel<sup>13</sup>.

The decrease in the initial boiling points (IBP) after all additions also indicated that, the quality of gasoline was improved.

The addition of isopropyl alcohol with different concentrations raises the value of the octane number after the distillation and refining processes. Therefore, the distillation test gives an interpretation about the raising or lowering of the octane number<sup>10</sup>. No limits had been assigned for the density and vapor pressure by ASTM, because they depend to a greater extent on the temperature of the country, but the refineries has assigned limits to these physical parameters as shown in table (2).

According to the limits assigned for the density and vapor pressure, the results obtained in table (1)., appears to be in permissible range.

The percent of gum in gasoline affect on its stability, which can be a (+ve) or (-ve) effect on the octane number and the quality of the gasoline.

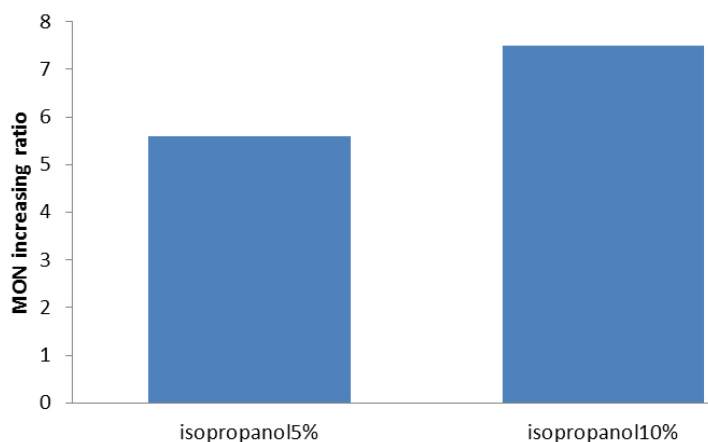
The gum existence after first addition being stable at (0.8 mg/100 ml) and after the second addition increased to 0.95 mg/100 ml and these results appears to be in permissible range assigned by ASTM as shown in table (3).

Copper corrosion may take place in the gasoline tank or the engine that use gasoline, so the test of the copper strip corrosion is very important to be carried out<sup>14</sup>.

ASTM established a color table from which it is possible to determine if corrosion of a copper plate when immersed in a gasoline sample takes place or not by comparison with ASTM copper strip corrosion standard. It is obvious that the result (1a) obtained after both additions is within permissible limits which indicates good quality of the Sudanese reformat gasoline.

**Table 1: Some physicochemical properties of Sudanese reformat gasoline before and after addition of iso propyl alcohol**

Test name	Reformat Gasoline (R.G) before addition of iso propyl alcohol	1000 ml .R.G + 50ml iso propyl alcohol	1000 ml .R.G + 100ml iso propyl alcohol	
Distillation	Initial Boiling Point (IBP)	37.9°C	36.5°C	33.7°C
	10%	58.5°C	57°C	55.6°C
	50%	97.2°C	95°C	93.5°C
	90%	159.0°C	157.2°C	157.6°C
	Final Boiling Point (FBP)	190.5°C	185.2°C	182.1°C
Density	736.4 k/m <sup>3</sup> (150°C)	729 k/m <sup>3</sup> (150°C)	701 k/m <sup>3</sup> (150°C)	
Vapor pressure	52.5 KPa(37.8°C)	49KPa(37.8°C)	49.1KPa(37.8°C)	
Gum content	0.8 mg/100ml	0.8 mg/100ml	0.95 mg/100ml	
Copper corrosion	1a	1a	1a	
Lead percentage	0.001 mg/L	0.001 mg/L	0.001 mg/L	
Oxidation stability	494 min	452 min	403 min	
Sulfur percentage	58.49 mg/L	58.49 mg/L	58.49 mg/L	
Pressure reading in CFR engine	0.583KPa	0.502KPa	0.475KPa	
Motor octane number	88.5	94.1	96	



**Fig. 1: Effect of isopropyl alcohol concentration on the value of MON**

**Table 2: Limits of physical parameters gasoline assigned by Khartoum refinery**

Test	Summer	Winter
Density	>740 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	>740 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Vapour pressure	40- 67 KPa	40 – 85KPa

**Table 3: The permissible range assigned by ASTM**

Test name	Permissible range	ASTM
Distillation	FBP ≤250°C	D86-99a
Gum content	0.5-2mg/100ml	D381-99
Copper corrosion	1a or 1b	D183-91
Oxidation stability	>240mints	D525-99a
Sulfur content	>250 ppm	D4294-89
Lead content	>0.001 ppm	D3341-91

The lead content of the reformat gasoline before any addition of iso propyl alcohol was found to be(0.001mg/L) which it is within the permissible limits assigned by ASTM, this value was not altered after both additions of iso propyl alcohol. Oxidation stability considered as one of the most important property that used to assess the quality of gasoline, since it give clue on the circumstances of the product storing, and also the heat required to start the combustion of gasoline inside the engine. Results obtained from the oxidation stability test also lies within the permissible range of ASTM as shown in table (3).

When adding isopropyl alcohol 5 and 10% (v/v) it was observed that the Sulfur percentage was stable and results obtained from sulfur content test was found within the right permissible range assigned by ASTM, this means a high quality was occurred because high sulfur percentage ( $\geq 250$ ppm) causes corrosion and lowers the octane number.

Figure (1) shows the effect of adding isopropyl alcohol at different concentrations to the Sudanese reformat gasoline. The increase in the value of the motor octane number of the Sudanese reformat gasoline from 88.5 initially to 94.1 and 96 by the addition of 5 and 10% (v/v) isopropyl alcohol respectively, indicates that isopropyl alcohol improve the quality of the Sudanese reformat gasoline, this improvement is attributed to the ability of the material to convert the hydrocarbon chains into cyclic compounds or increasing the branched chains in gasoline. .

## CONCLUSION

Motor Octane Number (MON) of reformat gasoline used in this project before improvement process was found to be 88.5 .

Isopropyl alcohol showed different abilities in improving MON of reformat gasoline produced at Khartoum Refinery.

The density and vapour pressure properties for reformat gasoline after additions with different

concentration were found to be within the range assigned by Khartoum refinery.

MON was improved to 94.1 & 96 after adding isopropyl alcohol 5 & 10 (v/v) respectively.

Other properties for reformat gasoline after all additions with different concentration were found within the limits assigned by ASTM.

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