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## ***Methanol Institute Offers Biodiesel Primer***

(Arlington, VA, May 11, 2006) Today, the Methanol Institute released a new report on the worldwide use and production of biodiesel fuel. Methanol is a key ingredient in the production of biodiesel fuel, and this report provides guidance on the safe handling and use of methanol in the manufacturing process. In addition to the report titled, “*A Biodiesel Primer: Market & Public Policy Developments, Quality, Standards and Handling*,” an accompanying “*Frequently Asked Questions*” document provides helpful guidance on safe handling procedures.

Both the *Primer* report and *FAQs* were prepared for the Methanol Institute (MI) by attorney Tammy Klein, Director, Global Biofuels & Americas, of the International Fuel Quality Center ([www.ifqc.org](http://www.ifqc.org)), which has offices in Houston, Texas; Washington, D.C.; and throughout Europe, Asia and Latin/South America. The *Primer* and *FAQs* are available for free on the Methanol Institute’s web site at [www.methanol.org](http://www.methanol.org).

“The methanol and biodiesel industries are partners in a critical effort to bring safe, reliable and affordable alternative fuels to the world’s transportation market,” said Jan W. Spin, Chairman of the MI’s Board of Directors and Vice President of Southern Chemical Corporation of Houston, Texas.

“The biodiesel industry is growing rapidly and is quite diverse,” stated William Bell, chairman of MI’s Global Product Stewardship Committee and Vice President of Johnson Matthey Catalysts based in the United Kingdom. “There are large producers with annual plant production capacities in the tens of millions of gallons, as well as ‘backyard blenders’ purchasing kits over the Internet. We believe it is important to provide guidance to help biodiesel producers handle methanol in a safe manner.”

In the United States, about 75 million gallons of biodiesel fuel were produced in 2005, while across Europe production exceeded 800 million gallons, and biodiesel fuels are used in Asia and South America. The *Primer* provides detailed discussions of public policy initiatives designed to spur the global market for biodiesel fuel. The report also outlines the biodiesel production process, specifications, and quality issues. Both the *Primer* and the *FAQs* focus on the safe handling of biodiesel and methanol.

“It was a pleasure for us to work with the Methanol Institute on this report and share our global knowledge and experience on biodiesel,” said Tammy Klein of the IFQC. “The Methanol Institute is to be congratulated for taking such a proactive approach to putting information out to the public on biodiesel and methanol. It is especially important since the biodiesel market is growing so fast around the world.”

From the “Biodiesel” page on MI’s web site, biodiesel producers seeking to purchase methanol can complete and submit an on-line *Methanol Source Request* that is sent to methanol producers and distributors. Each week, MI receives requests for 55-gallon drums up to millions of gallons of methanol.

**The Methanol Institute serves as the trade association for the global methanol industry.**

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