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Diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) availability in NZ

A number of trucking industry publications have reported on a likely shortage of diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) specifically in the Australian market. Apparently, Australia only produces about 10% of its required market demand and the balance is imported.

Transporting New Zealand has sought advice from New Zealand-based suppliers to ascertain whether the same situation might exist here. New Zealand suppliers have provided assurances that market demands can be catered for and New Zealand has the benefit of a domestic manufacturer of high-quality urea that is required for DEF. Given this advice, New Zealand is in a much better position than some other countries especially Australia.

The manufacturing facility here has the capability to manufacture the bulk of the of the volume of urea to meet the New Zealand DEF demand.

It is possible some New Zealand DEF suppliers may be more exposed than others, but that depends on their sourcing and supply lines.

The critical message is: there are no major concerns around the supply of DEF in New Zealand. However, customers should not try to stock up on DEF and should follow their usual purchasing habits.

A lot of the media attention has settled on the product Ad blue. For the record Ad blue is registered trade mark and product name. The correct reference to the product is diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). DEF is a non-toxic fluid composed of purified water and automotive grade aqueous urea. DEF is rigorously tested to ensure that it meets industry-wide quality standards.

Our advice is don't attempt to use non approved substitutes in vehicles or seek to compromise the vehicle engine ECU, either of which may possibly cause engine damage or damage the engines emission control subsystem. There is lot of chatter on social media about potential substitutes which we recommend ignoring.

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