



# Advisory

to: MOTOR FUEL PRODUCERS,  
IMPORTERS, and DISTRIBUTORS

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## **DIESEL FUEL -- IMPORTANT DATES FOR SMALL AND INDEPENDENT REFINERS**

On October 1, 1993, motor fuel regulations went into effect which established limits for the sulfur content and aromatic hydrocarbon content of diesel fuel sold for use in California motor vehicles. Included in these regulations are future compliance provisions for small and independent refiners. This advisory is to inform you of the significant events for small and independent refiners regarding compliance with the diesel fuel regulation. Please refer to Sections 2281 and 2282 of the California Code of Regulations for the details of these regulations.

### **Small Refiners' Sulfur Suspension Ends on October 1, 1994.**

The California Code of Regulations, Section 2281 (Sulfur Content of Diesel Fuel), allowed qualified small refiners to produce motor vehicular diesel fuel with a sulfur content above 500 ppm by weight until October 1, 1994. Motor vehicle diesel fuel shipped from a small refiner's refinery on or after October 1, 1994, must have a sulfur content of 500 ppm or less. In addition, the regulation provided that a small refiner that is granted a sulfur suspension is AUTOMATICALLY granted an exemption from meeting the requirements in CCR, Section 2282 (Aromatic Hydrocarbon Content of Diesel Fuel). This AUTOMATIC exemption will also terminate on October 1, 1994.

### **Small Refiners' Exemption from the Aromatic Hydrocarbon Limit**

Small refiners may seek relief from the 10% aromatic hydrocarbon content of diesel fuel limit. Section 2282 provides that a small refiner may apply for and be granted an exemption from the aromatics regulation. This exemption sets a less stringent 20% aromatic hydrocarbon limit for a specified annual volume of diesel fuel produced by a qualified small refiner. This exemption may continue indefinitely as long as the small refiner maintains its "small refiner" status.

### **Independent Refiners' Exemption from the Aromatic Hydrocarbon Limit**

Section 2282 also provides that an independent refiner may, under certain circumstances, apply for and be granted an exemption from the aromatics regulation until October 1, 1996. This exemption sets a 20% aromatics limit for the qualified independent refiner for the duration of the exemption.

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact Roye Jackson of the Field Enforcement Section at 916-322-6033.

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