



Compliance Division

Advisory

FUEL SPECIFICATIONS

Number 128

September 1995

WINTERTIME OXYGENATED GASOLINE 1995/96

The purpose of this advisory is to remind all producers, importers, blenders, distributors, transporters, and retailers of gasoline in California of their responsibilities concerning the wintertime oxygenation of such fuel and the interaction of the Reid vapor pressure (RVP) requirement during October 1995.

Section 2258 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) states that "no person shall sell, offer for sale, supply, offer for supply, or transport California gasoline unless the gasoline has an oxygen content of not less than 1.8 percent by weight and not more than 2.2 percent by weight." The wintertime oxygen content regulation applies in the following areas at different times.

<u>Air Basin or County</u>	<u>Regulatory Control Period</u>	<u>Air Basin or County</u>	<u>Regulatory Control Period</u>
South Coast	October 1 - February 29	North Coast	October 1 - January 31
Ventura County	October 1 - February 29	Lake County	October 1 - January 31
Sacramento Valley	October 1 - January 31	Northeast Plateau	October 1 - January 31
San Joaquin Valley	October 1 - January 31	North Central Coast	October 1 - January 31
San Francisco Bay Area	October 1 - January 31	San Luis Obispo Co.	October 1 - January 31
Lake Tahoe Air	October 1 - January 31	San Diego	November 1 - February 29
Great Basin Valley	October 1 - January 31	Southeast Desert	November 1 - February 29
Mountain Counties	October 1 - January 31	Santa Barbara County	November 1 - February 29

Section 2251.5 (a)(1) of 13 CCR limits the "summertime" RVP of gasoline to a maximum of 7.80 psi. The addition of ethanol to gasoline results in an increased RVP of about 1 psi. Extreme care should be taken when ethanol is used as an oxygenate in those areas where the RVP requirement also applies through October 31. These areas are the South Coast, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley, Mountain Counties, Lake Tahoe, and North Central Coast Air Basins as well as Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. There are special provisions for gasoline blends containing ethanol in October. Specifically, section 2251.5 (a)(3)(B) of 13 CCR allows that "any sale, offer for sale, supply, or transport of gasoline containing at least 4.9 percent ethanol by volume which occurs inOctober 1995 shall not constitute a violation of section (a)(1) unless the gasoline has a Reid vapor pressure exceeding 8.80 pounds per square inch." (4.9 percent ethanol is equivalent to 1.8 percent oxygen).

Retailers in these areas should be extremely cautious when buying fuel prior to and during October. A non-complying gasoline could be created by a delivery of gasoline that has been oxygenated properly using ethanol into a storage tank that contains gasoline having an oxygenate other than ethanol, i.e. MTBE, or vice versa. The resulting blend, when sampled, would have less than 4.9 percent ethanol and, therefore, most likely result in a violation of the RVP requirement of 7.80 psi.

Additionally, there are certain specific exceptions to the wintertime oxygen requirements for retail outlets located in Modoc, Lassen, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Mono, Inyo, and San Bernardino Counties but not within the Lake Tahoe or Sacramento Valley Air Basins. For information about these exceptions or if you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact Royce Jackson of the Field Enforcement Section at 916-322-6033.

In some areas of California, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations may apply regarding the use of oxygenates. Please contact Michael Ball at 202-233-9005 for information on these Federal regulations.

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