

BARTENDER, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER

Those words above can often lead to a world of trouble, because someone has just asked for what may well be too much alcohol in their system. Of course that decision can be reversed, as should the EPA's consideration to add more alcohol to our gasoline. Many years ago, my Dad, who was a Mechanical Engineer, graduate of Lehigh University, top of his class, told me that if I added Methanol (often referred to as Wood Alcohol) to the gasoline in the Gas Tank of my car, to lesson the emissions output of the car, that I should only do so briefly, and no more than in a ratio of 1 gallon to 20 gallons of gasoline (5%). My Dad went on to say that while the emissions would be lower while the alcohol was present in the gasoline, that continued use, would cause serious damage to the car's fuel system, since the components weren't designed to tolerate alcohol with it's tendency to both absorb moisture from the atmosphere, as well as it's drying tendencies, which would damage any rubber in the fuel system, most plastics, and possible embrittle any gaskets it came in contact with. Mind you, what brought all this up years ago, was a desire to do something quick and easy, until I could do what was needed. In the case of the EPA though, what is being proposed is NOT temporary, and it WILL do damage to older vehicle fuel systems, even though it is Ethanol, not Methanol.

Read what appears below, and then send off a quick note to our President, your Congressman/Congresswoman, and Senators, asking that they relay your desire that the increase in Ethanol content in gasoline, be permanently shelved, along with some of the SEMA talking points pointing out why your request be honored.

URGENT REGULATORY ALERT

EPA Threatens to Raise Ethanol Content in Gasoline

Under pressure from ethanol producers to raise the ethanol content in gasoline, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could issue a decision later this month allowing the use of E15 in late-model cars. It could permit the use in other cars at a later date. The SEMA Action Network (SAN) opposes the shift from E10 to E15 due to concerns that the additional content will harm automobiles of all ages, including special interest collector and historic vehicles. To date, there is a lack of conclusive information regarding E15's effect on engines of different model years. In addition to the potential harm of E15 on engine components, the EPA has no procedure in place to ensure misfueling does not occur or any plan for ensuring regular gasoline continues to be available for older vehicles. The SAN's concerns are shared by a number of other industry organizations.

We Urge You to Ask President Obama (Contact Information Below) to Stop the EPA from Raising the Ethanol Content in Gasoline

Dear Mr. President:

I strongly urge you to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from raising the amount of ethanol in gasoline from today's 10 percent (E10) to 15 percent (E15) – a 50 percent increase.

- The EPA is under pressure from some corporate ethanol supporters to raise the rates in order to boost sales. However, scientific studies have not yet been completed on concerns that the added content could harm auto parts of all ages.
- When ethanol levels are raised, engines react differently and in a potentially dangerous way. Ethanol causes engines to burn hotter which could lead to premature engine and equipment failure. For newer cars, the "check engine" light may appear unnecessarily or too late to avoid costly repairs.
- Ethanol also increases water formation in the fuel system, especially when the vehicle sits over a period of time. Under these conditions, formic acid is created which corrodes metals, plastics and rubber. This can lead to engine/parts failures and, potentially, safety hazards.
- If the EPA approves E15, it will state that the increased ethanol is only for recent model cars. However, once a new fuel mix enters the gasoline supply system, it will inevitably end up in the wrong engines.
- Gasoline without any ethanol may simply disappear from the marketplace for millions of Americans with older cars or special interest collector and historic vehicles. E10 has already made this a reality in many areas of the country.
- The EPA should wait until all of the scientific research is complete. There is no need for a rush to judgment.

DON'T DELAY! Please contact President Obama at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>