

Regulatory Advisory: September 30, 2022

EARLY TRANSITION TO WINTER-BLEND GASOLINE

Scope and Applicability

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is issuing a Regulatory Advisory (Advisory) today, September 30, 2022, effective immediately, regarding CARB requirements for gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure. In response to the Governor's September 30, 2022, directive that CARB allow an early transition to winter-blend gasoline, and as a matter of its enforcement discretion in light of CARB's determination of its regulatory enforcement priorities, CARB is allowing the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of winter blend gasoline. This Advisory will remain in effect only until midnight, Pacific Daylight Time, October 31, 2022, unless otherwise superseded by subsequent CARB regulatory action or advisory. This Advisory applies to any person who sells, offers for sale, supplies, offers for supply, or transports California gasoline.

Regulatory Framework for California Reformulated Gasoline

The California Reformulated Gasoline (CaRFG) regulations limit, among other properties, the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) of gasoline sold, offered or sale, supplied, offered for supply, or transported within the State ([title 13, California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), section 2262 et seq.](#)). In order to control evaporative emissions of hydrocarbons, the RVP of summertime gasoline is generally restricted to a production or importation limit of about 7.0 pounds per square inch (psi). These summertime RVP limits apply through October 31 for most of California, depending on the air basin. These RVP limits are lifted in the wintertime when ozone formation is less of a problem.

Steps Taken for Early Transition to Winter-Blend Gasoline

The gasoline market in California is currently experiencing very high prices for reasons that industry has not made clear, but that appear to include, in part, a recent refinery fire, West Coast refinery maintenance challenges, Hurricane Ian, and other geopolitical events.

In response to direction by the Governor to help address the above fuel-related issues, CARB will exercise its enforcement discretion to allow gasoline sold or supplied for use in the State that exceeds the RVP limits in title 13, CCR, section 2262, from the effective date of this Advisory through the end of October 31, 2022. This action is necessary to address the extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstance caused by the multiple events described above and is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety or general welfare. Any impacts on air quality caused by this action are expected to be minimal and outweighed by the public interest in temporarily relaxing the RVP limits.

CARB will continue to enforce all other requirements of the CaRFG regulations, including other fuel properties, specifications, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements. In addition, nothing in this Advisory modifies, replaces, supersedes, or otherwise changes any other requirements applicable to gasoline under local, State, or federal law or regulation. Persons regulated by the CaRFG regulations should continue to sell or distribute gasoline meeting the current California RVP limits where such supplies are available.

For More Information

For any questions regarding this Advisory, please contact Ms. Carolyn Lozo, Chief, Oil, Gas, and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Branch at (279) 208-7306 or via email at carolyn.lozo@arb.ca.gov.