

E15



YEAR-ROUND

- On May 31, 2019, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a final rule providing Reid vapor pressure (RVP) relief for E15. EPA released its final rule just before the June 1st kick-off of the summer driving season, so retailers nationwide can offer E15 as an option to their customers year-round.
- E15 is a clean, safe, and low-cost fuel which can be used in more than 90 percent of the cars on the road today (EPA has approved the use of E15 in all vehicles made in model year 2001 and after).
- Record growth and investment in retail infrastructure continues to increase E15 availability at about 1,800 retail locations in 31 states and counting.
- Estimates project E15 consumption in 2019 could reach 700 to 800 million gallons, and long-term this rule could open the door to nearly 7 billion gallons of new ethanol demand.
- The sale of E15 year-round enables retailers to sell the fuel if they wish, gives consumers the option to buy the low-cost fuel, reduces refiner RIN costs, and opens market access for surplus corn.

Background on Rule

EPA measures the evaporative emissions of fuel using RVP expressed in pounds per square inch (psi).

Previously, the Clean Air Act prohibited the sale of gasoline with an RVP in excess of 9 psi during the high ozone “summer” season (June 1 – Sept. 15). To help allow the use of E10 year-round, Congress amended the Clean Air Act in 1990 to provide a 1-psi RVP waiver for fuel blends “containing gasoline and 10 percent ethanol” (the highest ethanol content in gasoline at the time).

In 2011, EPA approved the use of E15, a fuel with slightly lower evaporative emissions than E10, for use in all light-duty vehicles made in model year 2001 and after. EPA did not allow a RVP waiver for E15 at the time. Because EPA only has volatility limits on gasoline during the “summer” season, E15 was sold outside the June 1 – Sept. 15 time frame.

At the direction of President Trump, due to the growing presence of E15 in the marketplace and changed circumstances since it was approved in 2011, EPA issued a rule to allow E15 to be sold during the “summer” season.

EPA’s rule deems E15 as “substantially similar” to fuel (E10) used to certify Tier 3 light-duty vehicles and offers a new interpretation of the Clean Air Act to apply the 1-psi RVP waiver to gasoline “containing at least 10 percent” ethanol.

Nine of every 10 cars on the road are E15 approved, and most vehicles under warranty today were built to run on E15. Travelers Motor Club and Association Motor Club Marketing, with more than 20 million members in all 50 states, report no engine damage from ethanol and endorse E15 as safe and affordable.

E15 typically costs 2 to 10 cents per gallon less than E10 and gasoline and has a higher octane rating, so this fuel gives consumers the option to buy a higher quality product and save money at the pump.