



What's New: Spring 2002 Update

Used AFVs for Sale

Now that the percentages of required new alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) acquisitions have topped out at 75% for state fleets and 90% for alternative fuel providers, more fleets are searching for ways to save money while complying with EPAct. Services like the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) are responding to the need by offering used AFVs to federal and state fleets before auctioning them to the public. Responsible for purchasing new vehicles for government entities, GSA is one of the nation's largest purchasers of AFVs. Fleets can purchase these vehicles—which are typically fairly new and have low mileage—at reduced prices from auction facilities across the country. State fleets can work with surplus property agencies to secure used AFVs from GSA at low prices. For a list of state surplus agencies, visit www.gsa.gov, and click on the Surplus/Excess Property link.

To learn more about available used AFVs and upcoming auctions, visit GSA's Web site at www.autoauctions.gsa.gov. For other sources of used AFVs, visit the Alternative Fuels Data Center Web site at www.afdc.doe.gov/afv/usedafv.html, or check out the Used AFV Bulletin Board on the EPAct Web site at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/state_fleets.html.

Exemption Guidance Revised for MY 2002

Starting in model year (MY) 2002, fleets covered under the State & Alternative Fuel Provider (S&FP) Program will be expected to address the availability of biodiesel supplies when requesting exemptions. As a result, the guidance "Documentation Requirements for Exemption Requests Under EPAct State and Fuel Provider Sections 490.308 and 490.204" will be revised to reflect the change. The current guidance requires fleets to justify their exemption requests by documenting that the alternative fuels or AFVs they need are not available in their areas. Because fleets

Facts & Figures

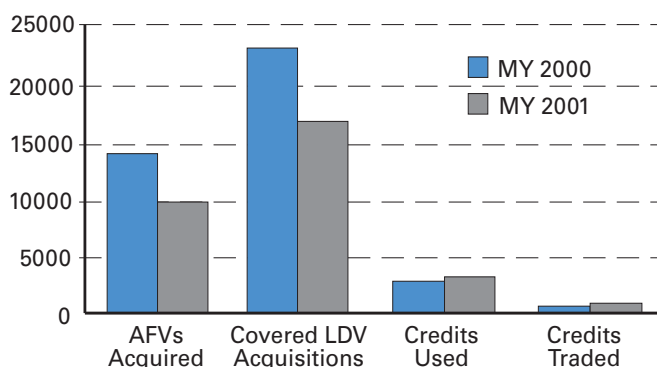
AFV Aquisitions top 60,000 in MY 2001

Preliminary reporting statistics* indicate that the total number of AFVs acquired by fleets since the S&FP Program's inception increased from 50,000 in MY 2000 to more than 60,000 in MY 2001*. However, a recent decline in annual acquisitions is evident. In MY 2000** fleets acquired 13,709 vehicles; in MY 2001 that number decreased to 9,847.

The 2001 configurations are: E85: 5,655; Natural gas: 3,129; Propane: 865; Electric: 198.

The reduction in acquisitions is in line with expectations, however, since the number of AFVs fleets are required to purchase is based on the total number of light-duty vehicles (LDVs) they purchase during a specific model year. The total number of LDVs purchased by fleets declined in MY 2001—17,502 covered LDVs in MY 2001 versus 23,360 in MY 2000 (a 25% drop).

AFV's Acquired by Covered Fleets



* Based on preliminary statistics. A small number of fleet reports have not been entered.

** Numbers reflect adjustments made to the database since the printing of the S&FP Program's FY 2001 annual report.

can now earn credits for biodiesel fuel use, they must also document the availability of biodiesel supplies. The updated guidance will detail the requirements for the documentation.

Another change for MY 2002 is how the program will handle exemption requests by fleets that have a negative credit balance from previous years. Before an exemption request for MY 2002 will be considered, fleets with credit deficiencies will be expected to demonstrate how they plan to make up their deficits.

Fleet Activity

Iowa DOT Focuses on E85

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) currently has 358 light-duty flexible fuel ethanol vehicles in its fleet of approximately 2,500. This is up from the 2001 count of 291 vehicles, which collectively drove 2.2 million miles during the year. Iowa DOT asks its employees to fuel the vehicles with E85 whenever they can. There is one E85 government station on site and 16 public ones scattered throughout Iowa, so fueling is quite convenient.

David May, Iowa DOT's specifications manager, said, "I don't know why anyone wouldn't use E85. It's easy, the vehicles are readily available, and the infrastructure requires no major alterations. If you're concerned about environmental quality and energy security, it definitely helps in those areas. We also recognize the benefits to our local corn growers from our use of E85."

Iowa DOT began acquiring alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in 1993, and it began using E85 in November 1995. It has exceeded its AFV requirements every year and has transferred 221 credits to help other fleets satisfy shortfalls. Iowa DOT currently has 115 banked credits.

According to May, the environment at Iowa DOT is conducive to using E85 vehicles. Pre-EPA legislative requirements in Iowa provided the impetus for Iowa DOT to try something new and relatively inexpensive—the state code requires that 10% of all new vehicles purchased be alternatively fueled. And support for AFVs among the leaders and employees of Iowa DOT is nearly unanimous.

NYS, TxDOT Share Secrets of Success

More than 75 people on March 12 attended the EPA Act breakout session during the Clean Cities Washington Day Workshop. Gerard King and John Spano of New York State (NYS) and Don Lewis of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) led the discussion, which focused on what makes their fleet programs successful. Topics covered included:

- Educating fleet drivers on the function and use of AFVs.
- Developing infrastructure in cooperation with private fuel retailers.
- Providing incentives for drivers to want to use alternative fuels in the AFVs they drive.
- Working with original equipment manufacturers to identify fleet needs.
- Coordinating AFV programs among agencies.
- Instilling support from the top to the rank and file.

To download the Washington Day presentations, as well as success stories featuring NYS and TxDOT, visit the EPA Act Web site at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/state_fleets.html.

What is EPA Act?

The Energy Policy Act of 1992, or EPA Act, was passed by Congress to reduce the nation's dependence on imported petroleum. Provisions of EPA Act require certain fleets to purchase alternative fuel vehicles. DOE administers the regulations through its State & Fuel Provider Program, Federal Fleet Program, Private & Local Government Program, and Fuel Petition Program. EPA Act also includes voluntary programs, such as Clean Cities, which help accelerate the use of alternative fuels in transportation.

For more information, visit <http://www.ott.doe.gov/epact>, or call the Regulatory Information Line at (202) 586-9171.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Office of Transportation Technologies

Prepared by
the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory
Operated by Midwest Research Institute • Battelle • Bechtel

DOE/GO-102002-1584
May 2002

Printed with a renewable-source ink on paper containing
at least 50% wastepaper, including 20% postconsumer waste



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