

EPAct

Fleet Information & Regulations



Federal Fleet Requirements

Newsletter

What's New: Winter 2006

Nominate a Fleet by January 31

Do you know a fleet manager who has worked tirelessly to get an ethanol station built onsite? How about a group of drivers who spearheaded B20 use in all heavy-duty equipment? Now is the time to recognize your colleagues for their dedication and hard work. Nominate them for a White House Closing the Circle Award. Signed by the president, this prestigious award recognizes outstanding achievements of Federal employees in promoting environmental stewardship.

This year, the Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in Transportation category will celebrate significant progress of programs, practices, and procedures implemented in Federal fleets in 2005. This includes establishing new alternative fuel infrastructure, encouraging alternative fuel use, developing ride share and fuel efficiency methods, acquiring hybrid or neighborhood electric vehicles, or any other activities to decrease petroleum consumption.

Individual or groups of Federal employees (including contractors) are eligible to submit nominations. Nominations are due January 31, 2006. For more information, visit www.ofee.gov/ctc/ctc.htm, or contact Juan Lopez at lopez.juan@ofee.gov.

EPAct 2005 Mandates Alt Fuel Use in FFVs

Signed by President Bush on August 8, the Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 now requires Federal fleets to run dual- and flexible-fuel vehicles on alternative fuels unless the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) determines an agency is exempt from the legislation.

Agencies can contact DOE to apply for a waiver. To qualify, alternative fuel must not be "reasonably available" to the fleet or the cost of alternative fuel is "unreasonably more expensive" than conventional fuel.

DOE is currently reviewing the provision and considering how it will be implemented. Guidance on complying with the dual-fuel requirement will be posted on the EPAct website this spring.

Annual Reports Due February 15

The deadline for submitting annual compliance reports to Congress has changed from November 13 to February 15. The new due date is effective for fiscal year 2005 reporting data. Because the new deadline better accommodates the FAST reporting schedule, no extensions will be granted for tardy compliance reports.

For more information, visit www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact/federal/fed_reporting.shtml.

For more information on the EPAct of 2005, visit the Alternative Fuels Data Center website (www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/laws/epact_2005.html).

DOE, USDA Debut Biodiesel Shuttles

DOE and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently started using biodiesel (B20) in their employee shuttles. The departments made the switch in response to a presidential directive calling for agencies to "take appropriate actions to conserve natural gas, electricity, gasoline, and diesel fuel." Using biodiesel also helps DOE and USDA comply with the 20% petroleum reduction goal of E.O. 13149.

In addition to using biodiesel in its shuttles, DOE swapped its two full-size, 45-passenger buses for smaller, 25-passenger vans, which better accommodate the number of employees using the service. DOE runs two vans between its downtown Washington, D.C., headquarters and its Germantown location 20 miles away. DOE operates two shuttles on the 40-mile loop six times a day.

According to Michael S. Wolfe, DOE's Director of Transportation, Travel, and Mail, the new shuttles will displace approximately 21,840 gallons of petroleum per year.

USDA, through its shuttle contract provider Melwood, traded three gasoline buses for three 20-passenger vans that run on diesel. The department fuels the vehicles with B20 from its Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland, located 25 miles from downtown Washington.

USDA runs one shuttle five times a day between its downtown headquarters complex to the George Washington Carver



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Center (GWCC) in Beltsville. The van carries a total of 735 passengers per month on the 50-mile loop. To support employee and visitor use of public transportation, the other two shuttles carry passengers between the GWCC, BARC, the National Agricultural Library, and the Beltsville Service Center and to and from the Greenbelt Metro Station. This 40-mile loop runs 25 times a day, transporting 2,585 passengers per month. In total, the USDA shuttles are anticipated to displace 15,000 gallons of petroleum per year.

DOE and USDA plan to use their shuttles as moving billboards to educate the public about biodiesel. As of press time, DOE is leaning toward a colorful wrap that says, "This bus runs on biodiesel—clean, renewable, and made in the U.S.A."

USDA is having the message, "Biodiesel powered. This van gets 250 miles per acre," painted on both sides of its vehicles. The departments are also planning an announcement ceremony to celebrate the new shuttles.

Plan Now for FedFleet 2006

Join your colleagues June 20-22 in Los Angeles at FedFleet 2006, the premier event for the Federal motor vehicle fleet. This year's schedule includes sessions on the Automotive Federal Vehicle Standards, vendor presentations, and a new day-long basic fleet management class. To review the agenda, obtain hotel information, and register, visit www.fedfleet.org.

Fleet Activity

Nevada Test Site Adds E85 Station, Expects to Displace 85,000 Gallons of Petroleum per Year

The U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site (NTS) in Mercury opened its first ethanol (E85) fueling station in late September. The new facility supports a portion of the site's 302 flexible-fuel vehicles (FFVs)—a third of the fleet's more than 1,000 vehicles.

One of the largest restricted-access areas in the country, the NTS is an outdoor national laboratory and experiment center covering 1,375 square miles. Originally used to test nuclear weapons, NTS now conducts tests on chemical spills and conventional weapons and specializes in emergency response, waste management, and environmental technology training and studies.

"The new E85 station is the first of its kind at the NTS, and its use in onsite vehicles is expected to displace a minimum of 85,000 gallons of petroleum each year," says Steve Lawrence, Site Operations Assistant Manager.

The site chose E85 because of its availability and a changing alternative fuel vehicle market.

"Manufacturers are reducing the number of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles available and increasing the number of available E85 vehicles," said Oscar Valdez, Fleet Services Supervisor at

Bechtel Nevada. "Plus, there wasn't a sufficient supply of the CNG to the site—no pipeline."

Due to the site's size, not all NTS FFVs can fill up at the new E85 station. The roughly 200 FFVs—nearly 66% of the fleet—based in Mercury can take advantage of the new fuel station. Lawrence says plans to build another station are underway. The current station has been instrumental in helping the NTS reduce petroleum consumption, as required by E.O. 13149. It will also help the site comply with the EPA Act of 2005 mandate, which calls for Federal vehicles to run on alternative fuels.

In addition to E85, NTS uses B20 in its 169 heavy-duty vehicles. This biodiesel is dispensed onsite at two stations. Each year, NTS displaces 25,000 gallons of conventional diesel fuel. So far, NTS alone has used 320,000 gallons of B20 since 2003.

According to Valdez, employee awareness is what makes the alternative fuel program at NTS successful. "All managers encourage the use of the E85 station whenever possible," he says. "The fuel credit card reminds drivers of E85 availability when they use the card at onsite unleaded fuel pumps. We even made a special E85 keychain to remind employees they are driving an FFV."

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