



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Regulatory Services Division

Mid Level Ethanol Blends





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**E85 Fuels – Issues and Solutions
Presentation Outline**

- ✓ What are Mid Level Ethanol Blends & What is the Issue?
- ✓ Are Blender Pumps Allowed at Retail in Tennessee?
- ✓ Work at ASTM International Committee D02
- ✓ Is there a Demand in Tennessee?



What are Mid Level Ethanol Blends?

Essentially, Mid Level Fuel Blends are blends of gasoline and ethanol that are > 10% by volume and < 70% by volume (as of today) for use in Flex Fuel Vehicles.

Issues:

- ✓ Technically, ASTM D4814 covers fuels up to E49 based on the current scope.
- ✓ Practically, you could not blend a high level fuel that would meet the spec.
- ✓ TN Law requires fuels conveyed for consumption in Tennessee to meet standards established by ASTM International.
 - ASTM has not addressed Mid Level Blends



Are Blender Pumps Currently Allowed in TN?

No. Currently a request for blender pump installation would not be approved for use at a retail site.

We have not received a formal request to approve a blender pump installation at this time.

However; fleets, card-lock dispensing systems, ..., would be evaluated upon the request of a potential seller – those systems could be approved.

Our position on blender pumps at public retail facilities could change in the future based on ASTM International activities.



ASTM Activities on Mid Level Blends

- ✓ ASTM Committee D02, Subcommittee A has formed a Task Force on Mid Level Ethanol Blends.
- ✓ The first step is to develop a “Standard Practice” for selling Mid Level Ethanol Blends.
 - OEM’s of FFV’s generally accept fuel blends between E0 and E85, knowing that switch fueling is common.
- ✓ A Standard Practice differs from a Standard Specification: A Standard Practice is an accepted procedure for the performance of one or more operations or functions.
- ✓ Upon the development of a Standard Practice, TN may be able to adopt as rule and open door to Mid Level Blends





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ASTM Activities on Mid Level Blends

- ✓ A Standard Practice could include such things as:
 - Referencing other standard specifications.
 - The products that must be stored and blended – e.g. store and blend ASTM D5798 (E85) and ASTM D4814 (gasoline) for blending to EXX blends.
 - The range of ethanol that would be allowed for an EXX blend.
 - Blending procedures...





Demand for Mid Level Blends in TN?

Discussion from Group !

