



# ACCC Legislative Alert!

**EPA acknowledges ethanol damages engines! April 18, 2014**

Proposed new labeling rule would prove very ineffective. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has publicly acknowledged that ethanol in gasoline can damage internal combustion engines by increasing exhaust temperatures and indirectly causing component failures.

Yet, even with this knowledge, the Federal Trade Commission is recommending more labeling for E15 at the gas pump is the solution to the problem. The Association of California Car Clubs (ACCC) believes that labeling at the pump will be confusing and is not enough.

The Federal Trade Commission issued a rule proposal to provide requirements for rating and certifying ethanol blends and requirements for labeling blends of more than 10 percent ethanol. But this rule exempts the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's E15-approved label. This rule is for an additional label to be placed on the fuel pump "in response to the emergence of ethanol blends as a retail fuel and the likely increased availability of such blends." With this rule, it only means gasoline with higher blends of ethanol will emerge into the marketplace.

The ACCC believes this proposal will cause even more confusion given the events surrounding the rollout of E15 into the marketplace. The ACCC opposes E15 and any fuel containing more than ten percent ethanol because it can cause engine and fuel system failure to classic cars, small internal combustion engines, marine engines, and can void manufacturers' warranties.

According to the EPA, "ethanol impacts motor vehicles in two primary ways. First ... ethanol enleans the [air/fuel] ratio (increases the proportion of oxygen relative to hydrocarbons) which can lead to increased exhaust gas temperatures and potentially increase incremental deterioration of emission control hardware and performance over time. Second, ethanol can cause materials compatibility issues, which may lead to other component failures."

The FTC is seeking public comments now on the rule proposal that calls for the additional label to identify higher ethanol blended fuels. You can tell the agency how this proposal will cause even more confusion, given the events surrounding the rollout of E15 into the marketplace.

We do not believe this new label will do what it is intended to do – keep users from misfueling with higher ethanol blended fuels. It simply does not provide clear direction. Another label on a blender pump that already has many labels will not be sufficient to avoid misfueling and could be easily overlooked.



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The proposed rule provides no direction on where on the pump the label should be located. Moreover, the FTC is proposing that the label be rounded to the nearest factor of 10. How will this accurately inform the consumer of the type of fuel called for by the vehicle owner's manual? Will a fuel containing 11 percent to 14 percent ethanol be labeled as 10 percent ethanol? Is the FTC aware that manufacturers' warranties are valid only for the use of fuel containing 10 percent ethanol by volume or less?

Help protect over 300,000 Hot Rods; Street Rods; Classic & Muscle Cars in California and over 6.2 million in America from inadvertent misfueling. Tell the FTC you want safe access to fuel for your vehicle! The loser in any inadvertent misfueling event is the collector car hobbyist. The deadline for comments is June 2, 2014! Act today to ensure your voice is heard. Let the FTC and the EPA know your concerns.

Go to <https://ftcpubcommentworks.com/ftc/autofuelratingscertnprm/> to submit your comments,

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