

FACT SHEET

Proposed Rule

Modifications to the Standards and Requirements for Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline June 24, 1997

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking that would amend the final rule establishing standards and requirements for reformulated and conventional gasoline.
- This notice of proposed rulemaking would make changes to various provisions of the regulations that would, in most cases, reduce the compliance burden on regulated parties with little likelihood of any negative environmental impact.

BACKGROUND

- Through the amended Clean Air Act of 1990, Congress mandated that EPA promulgate regulations requiring that gasoline sold in certain areas be reformulated to reduce vehicle emissions of toxic and ozone-forming compounds. The EPA published rules for the certification and enforcement of reformulated gasoline and provisions for conventional (i.e., non-reformulated) gasoline on February 16, 1994 (59 FR 7716).
- Based on experience gained since the promulgation of these regulations, EPA is proposing numerous changes to the regulations relating to emissions standards, emissions models, compliance related requirements and enforcement provisions. The proposed changes involve both the reformulated and conventional gasoline programs. Many of the changes codify guidance issued by the Agency since the initial adoption of these gasoline programs. Most of these changes are in the nature of minor adjustments to the structure of the programs.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- Reformulated gasoline protects health and the environment by reducing harmful vehicle emissions of ozone (smog)-forming compounds and air toxics. The requirements for conventional gasoline prohibit refiners and importers from producing or importing conventional gasoline that has greater emissions than the refiner's or importer's 1990 gasoline production. The emissions benefits achieved from the reformulated and conventional gasoline programs would not be reduced as a result of this action.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE REGULATION?

- Refiners, importers, oxygenate blenders, distributors, retail outlets and wholesale purchaser-consumers of gasoline.
- Facilities that act as independent laboratories for purposes of refiner and importer compliance with the regulatory requirement for independent laboratory analysis of gasoline properties.

HOW WILL THE REGULATION AFFECT INDUSTRY?

- The notice of proposed rulemaking overall would reduce burdens and costs associated with demonstrating compliance under the reformulated and conventional gasoline regulations.
- The notice of proposed rulemaking would provide industry with clarification regarding the scope of the reformulated and conventional gasoline requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- For further information about the rule, contact Marilyn Bennett at (202) 233-9006.