

Assembly Bill No. 411 of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature authorized the Nevada Board of Agriculture to adopt regulation for the sale of motor vehicle fuel containing no more than 15% ethanol by volume to be regulated by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA).

WHAT IS E15 FUEL?

E15 fuel is a gasoline that is made up of 85% gasoline and 15% ethanol. Consumers may see E15 referred to as Unleaded 88, Regular 88, Clean 88, eBlend, Unleaded 15, and Eco Unleaded at the pump. This fuel is appropriate for use in conventional automobile engines (with limitations outlined below). The majority of gasoline currently available in the U.S. contains up to 10% ethanol and is often referred to as E10. E15 has an additional 5% of ethanol and a corresponding 5% less gasoline.

I'M A CAR OWNER...

What are the benefits and disadvantages of E15 gasoline?

The most recognizable benefit of using E15 gasoline is economic. Traditionally, ethanol is less expensive than gasoline in the market and increasing the amount of ethanol will result in a price less than that of other options. Gasoline that contains ethanol has lower emissions of greenhouse gases, an effect that increases as the amount of ethanol increases.

However, the increased amount of ethanol comes with a tradeoff in the amount of energy in the fuel. Motorists using E15 will find a decrease in miles per gallon (MPG). Ethanol contains less energy than gasoline, so increasing amounts of ethanol in gasoline will result in a corresponding decrease in energy for the gasoline-ethanol blend, lowering the MPG.

What vehicles may use E15?

While E15 is a gasoline that is safe for use in many conventional vehicles, it is not appropriate for all vehicles or engines. Individuals should consult their owner's manual for information on their specific vehicle model and model year. The EPA has approved E15 for use in model year 2001 and newer vehicles, including light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles (SUVs). Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFV)s are also allowed to use E15.

What happens if I use E15 gasoline in a car that is not approved for use with E15?

Vehicles approved for E15 contain components that are unaffected by higher ethanol concentrations. The engine and fuel system in vehicles that are not approved for use of E15 have plastic, metal and rubber components that can be corroded by higher concentrations of ethanol. Using fuel with a higher concentration of ethanol than the manufacturer recommends may damage your vehicle.

What is Octane 88 or Unleaded 88?

These are both other names for E15 that are sometimes used by retailers. Ethanol is an octane booster when added to gasoline, so the extra 5% ethanol will increase the octane number by 1. This fuel is comparable to regular unleaded gasoline, but with slightly higher octane.

Will E15 be offered at all gas stations?

E15 is considered another gasoline choice for the consumer, like E10. Gasoline retailers in Nevada have the option of offering E15 gasoline but are not required to sell it. The NDA has found interest among distributors to provide E15, and its availability around the country continues to increase, but it will likely be some time before E15 is available at all gas stations.

What vehicles and engines may not use E15?

There are vehicles that are prohibited from using E15:

1. All model year 2000 and older vehicles;
2. Motorcycles;
3. All vehicles with heavy-duty engines (i.e., school buses, transit buses and delivery trucks);
4. All off-road vehicles (i.e., boats, snowmobiles, etc.);
5. All off-road equipment (lawnmowers, chain saws, etc.)

Additionally, while the majority of automakers have approved E15 for use in their vehicles, several still have not authorized approval. For the 2024 model year, companies that have not approved the use of E15 include the Daimler Group (Mercedes-Benz), Mazda, and the Volvo Car Group. Mitsubishi lists E15 as an approved fuel only for the Outlander model. Mitsubishi has not approved E15 for its other models. Individuals should consult their owner's manual for information on their specific vehicle model and model year.

Why is E15 gasoline less expensive than conventional gasoline?

Because gasoline costs more than ethanol, the consumer will find that E15 is less costly than traditional E10 gasoline due to the high percentage of ethanol and less gasoline.

How does the quality of E15 compare to the other options I see at gas stations?

The quality of E15 will be on the same level as other options available to the consumer. The gasoline and ethanol used to blend E15 will be the same base stocks as those used to blend E10.

However, E15 is not the same as 85 Octane or Ethanol Flex Fuel (EFF, or as it is more commonly known, E85). EFF is only appropriate for use in Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFV).



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT E15 GASOLINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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I'M A GAS RETAILER OR MEMBER OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY...

Do I have to sell E15 at my gas station(s)?

No. Assembly Bill 411 did not create a mandate requiring retailers to carry and sell E15 gasoline. Rather, it raised the maximum allowed percentage of ethanol in conventional gasoline from 10% to 15% and required the Nevada Board of Agriculture to adopt regulations for the storage and sale of E15. Retailers have the option to sell E15 gasoline, but it is not required.

Who regulates the sale of E15?

The NDA Division of Measurement Standards is responsible for ensuring fuel quality in the state of Nevada. E15 gasoline is another product for which the NDA will test and ensure quality. Additionally, the NDA inspects and regulates dispensers for accurate pricing and volume.

What regulations apply to the sale of E15?

Assembly Bill 411 amended [NRS 590.070](#), adding a new subsection 2, allowing for conventional gasoline to contain up to 15% ethanol by volume. The bill also directed the Nevada Board of Agriculture to adopt regulations concerning the storage and sale of E15 gasoline. As E15 gasoline is subject to federal law, [NAC 590.065](#) has been amended, adding relevant sections of the Federal Register.



What considerations should be taken before offering E15 gasoline?

The biggest considerations for a retailer considering the sale of E15 gasoline include:

1. Will it be necessary to retrofit equipment and tanks before the sale of E15 is allowed?

Depending on the age of the infrastructure at a retail location, underground storage tanks, piping and dispensers may need to be updated or replaced to handle the additional ethanol in the fuel.

2. Is there sufficient demand for E15 as a product?

This is a critical question for retailers, especially if there are additional upfront costs before E15 can be sold. E15 is a fairly new product and demand from consumers is unclear at this time.

Division of Measurement Standards
 ☎ (775) 353-3782
 ✉ ce@agri.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Agriculture
 405 S. 21st Street
 Sparks, NV 89431