



Advisory

FUEL SPECIFICATIONS

Number 173

February, 1999

REID VAPOR PRESSURE OF GASOLINE

The purpose of this advisory is to remind all producers, importers, blenders, distributors, haulers and retailers of gasoline in California of their responsibilities concerning the Reid vapor pressure (RVP) of such fuel. The RVP regulation is seasonal and geographical, and therefore requires periodic review.

Section 2262.1 (formerly Section 2251.5) of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations states that during the basic regulatory control period, no person shall sell, offer for sale, dispense, supply, offer for supply, or transport California gasoline which has an RVP exceeding 7.00 pounds per square inch. Section 2262.1 further states that during the additional regulatory control period, gasoline production facilities and import facilities are required to meet the 7.00 psi RVP limit one month before terminals and retailers. The additional regulatory control period also applies to parties when they transport gasoline directly from a production or import facility.

New subsection 2262.1(c)(4) was adopted by the Air Resources Board (ARB) on August 27, 1998 and became effective on September 21, 1998. It clarifies the "pre-season" RVP limit that applies to gasoline when it is supplied during the March additional regulatory control period from refineries and import facilities in the South Coast Air Basin, Ventura County, and San Diego County. Gasoline that is produced in California and is shipped by marine vessel to a terminal in any of the above areas will be treated as having been imported at the terminal, for purposes of the March RVP limit only. Any such gasoline that is subsequently supplied from the terminal in March will at that time be subject to the RVP standard of 7.0 psi, just as it would if the gasoline had been imported to the terminal from out of state.

Sometimes gasoline will be produced or imported in an air basin that is subject to a regulatory control period, but will be shipped for sale in another air basin where the control periods have not yet begun. Therefore, the regulation exempts gasoline being sold from a production or import facility during an additional regulatory control period where demonstrated precautions have been taken to assure the gasoline will be delivered to service stations in air basins where neither regulatory control period has yet begun. It also exempts sales in an air basin where the basic regulatory control period applies if there have been demonstrated precautions assuring the gasoline will only be delivered to service stations when they are not subject to the basic regulatory control period.

The following table lists the air basins, the basic regulatory control periods, and the additional regulatory control periods for gasoline producers and importers.

<u>Air Basin</u>	<u>Basic Regulatory Control Period</u>	<u>Additional Regulatory Control Period (Producers & Importers)</u>
South Coast and Ventura County	April 1 - October 31	March 1 - March 31
San Diego	April 1 - October 31	March 1 - March 31
Southeast Desert	April 1 - October 31	March 1 - March 31
Great Basin Valley	May 1 - September 30	April 1 - April 30
San Francisco Bay Area	May 1 - October 31	April 1 - April 30
San Joaquin Valley	May 1 - October 31	April 1 - April 30
Sacramento Valley	May 1 - October 31	April 1 - April 30
Mountain Counties	May 1 - October 31	April 1 - April 30
Lake Tahoe	May 1 - October 31	April 1 - April 30
North Coast	June 1 - September 30	May 1 - May 31
Lake County	June 1 - September 30	May 1 - May 31
Northeast Plateau	June 1 - September 30	May 1 - May 31
North Central Coast	June 1 - October 31	May 1 - May 31
S. Central Coast except Ventura Co.	June 1 - October 31	May 1 - May 31

Be advised that the Air Resources Board Compliance Division routinely samples gasoline and tests for Reid vapor pressure and other required specifications. Additionally, it is imperative that all producers, importers, blenders, distributors, and haulers ascertain the intended location for use of the fuel they market and/or transport, and take steps to ensure that all gasoline is sold or supplied according to the requirements of the regulations.

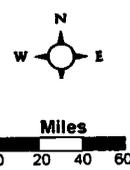
For your reference, the complete ARB Motor Vehicle Gasoline Regulations are available and can be downloaded from the ARB website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cbg/cbggen.htm>. Compliance Division's previous advisories are also available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cd/advice.htm>.

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please contact Chuck Beddow of the Field Enforcement Section at 916-322-6033. Written inquiries may be addressed to:

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Counties and Air Basins



- County
- Air Basin