



States' Biofuels Statutes

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

This project was undertaken in partnership with the USDA Office of the Chief Economist, The Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. For information on the full project, visit [States' Biofuels Statutory Citations](#). These statutes are placed in reverse chronological order using the date of the most recent amendment to the statute. Many biofuels laws were enacted as amendments to previously passed laws.

Current through the 2013 Legislative Session of the California General Assembly.

§ 43840. Legislative findings, declarations, policy, and intent; establishment of program to test pure alcohol fuels

(a) The Legislature finds and declares that emission of air pollutants from motor vehicles is a major contributor to air pollution within the State of California and, therefore, declares its policy to encourage the testing of various types of vehicle fuels, which would contribute substantially to the protection and preservation of the public health and well-being.

(b) The Legislature further finds and declares that programs to expand the use of alcohols as substitutes for gasoline and other petroleum-based fuels can offer significant environmental benefits while reducing the nation's dependence on imported crude oil.

(c) The Legislature further finds and declares that pure alcohol fuels burn cleanly and that motor vehicles fueled with alcohol can be modified at reasonable cost to burn alcohol fuels without decreasing efficiency and without creating air quality problems.

Credits: (Added by Stats.1980, c. 1201, p. 4053, § 1. Amended by Stats.2001, c. 115 (S.B.153), § 20.)

§ 43843. Methanol-gasoline experimental vehicle fleet program

(a) The state board, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, shall establish and conduct, until January 1, 1988, an experimental program in which fleet vehicles may utilize gasoline into which methanol has been blended.

(b) In order to participate in the methanol-gasoline experimental vehicle fleet program, all of the following information shall be submitted to the state board for each vehicle proposed for participation in the program:

- (1) The make, model, vehicle identification number, and license number of each vehicle.
 - (2) A description of the fuel to be used in the vehicle.
 - (3) Evidence that the vehicle's emissions using the methanol-gasoline blend will be no higher than the vehicle's emissions using gasoline which complies with the volatility standard established pursuant to Section 43830. Evidence may be based on emission tests or a combination of emission tests and engineering evaluation.
 - (4) A description of any modifications to the vehicle necessary to comply with paragraph (3).
 - (5) A valid certificate of compliance issued pursuant to Section 4000.1, 4000.2, or 4000.3 of the Vehicle Code.
- (c) Within 60 days of receipt of a request to participate in the program, the state board, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, shall approve or deny the request. Approval shall be granted if adequate evidence is provided that use of the fuel will not cause or contribute to an increase in vehicle emissions when using the methanol-gasoline blend.
- (d) The state board may periodically test vehicles enrolled in the program for compliance. Failure to meet state emission standards shall not result in imposition of any fine or penalty if there are no violations of Section 27156 of the Vehicle Code, and the vehicle is restored to conform to applicable emission standards at the end of the experimental program.
- (e) All of the following records shall be maintained on each vehicle and shall be made available to the state board upon request:
- (1) Fuel economy.
 - (2) Maintenance and repair.
 - (3) Driveability.
- (f) The state board may exempt the vehicles in any fleet participating in the program from the requirements of subdivision (b) until July 1, 1985. The exemption shall be granted if the applicant demonstrates that the evidence required pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) is not available, that there is likelihood that it will become available within the exemption period, and that the facility at which the fleet vehicle is normally refueled does not have provisions for the distribution of more than one type of fuel.

Credits: (Added by Stats.1984, c. 1278, § 2.)

§ 43844. Fuel standard noncompliance; methanol-gasoline fuel vehicle exemption

Fuels used in vehicles participating in the methanol-gasoline experimental vehicle fleet program shall not be required to comply with the standards established pursuant to Section 43830 or the requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 13440 of the Business and Professions Code, if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The fuel is dispensed only from a pump operated by a fleet operator whose request to participate has been granted pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 43843.

(b) The fuel is used only in vehicles participating in the methanol-gasoline experimental vehicle fleet program.

(c) The gasoline used in the blend meets the standards established pursuant to Section 43830.

Credits: (Added by Stats.1984, c. 1278, § 3.)