



OKLAHOMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Considering Unleaded 88?

C-STORES DUE DILIGENCE BEFORE ADOPTING NEW FUEL

By Mark Radosevich | January 13, 2020, CStore Decisions

There's a big push throughout various parts of the country to introduce higher ethanol blends beyond the traditional E10 level. Adding 5% more ethanol results in a slight one-point increase in octane, from 87 for E10 to 88 octane for E15. In addition to a higher-octane claim, the product can currently be offered at a price below regular E10, primarily due to the current government-mandated renewable fuel standard.

Store operators who adopt the new fuel may gain a competitive advantage, and their customers may enjoy higher octane at a lower price. At face value, this seems like a slam dunk that should virtually assure success and move this new product into the top volume category, if not replace E10 entirely, as the renewable fuels industry craves. On the flip side, E15 promoters fail to mention that gas mileage suffers with higher ethanol blends.

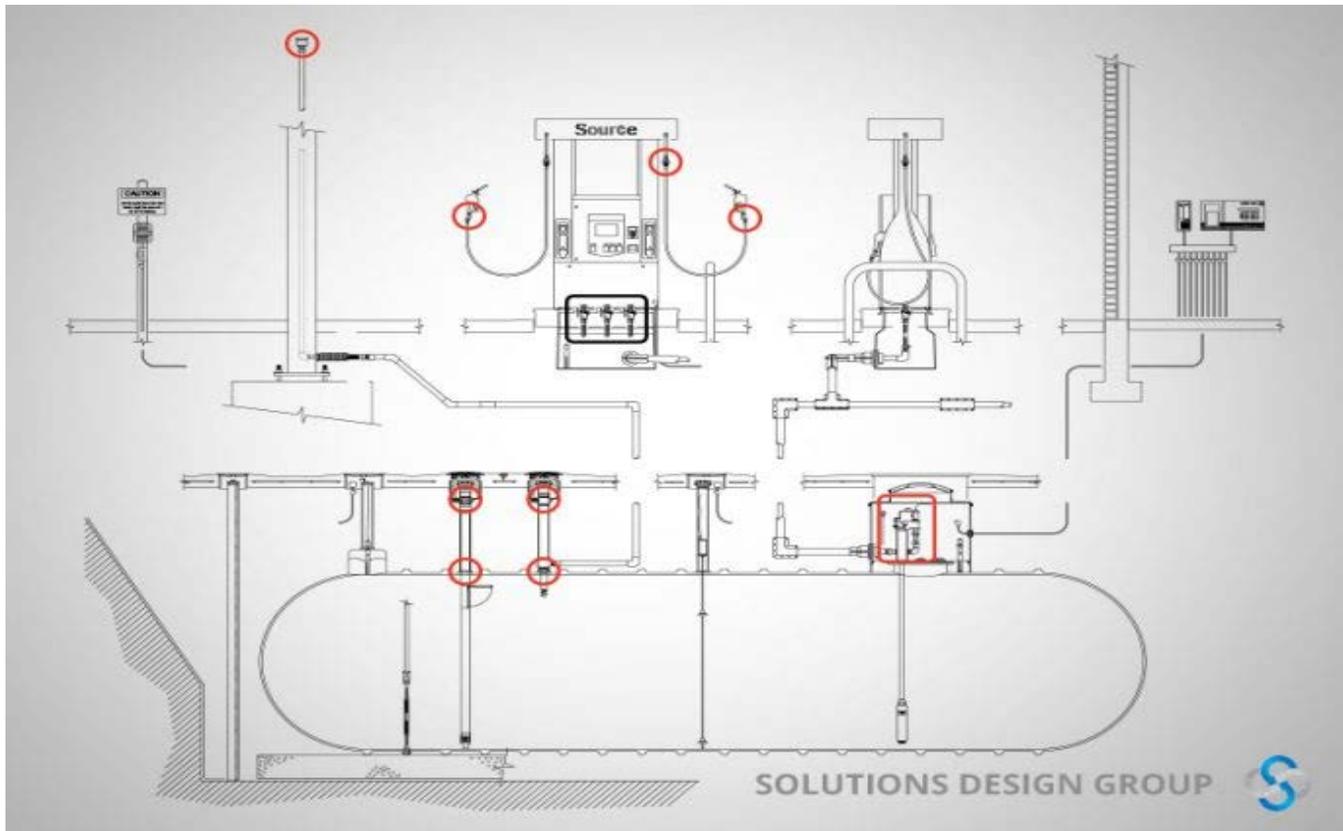
Key Considerations

Consumer research done by E15 advocates revealed that calling the product what it is, namely 'Unleaded with 15% Ethanol' or E15, was not good for sales. To overcome this challenge, the ethanol industry folks introduced the name "Unleaded 88" to place on the price sign and dispenser, thus promoting the higher octane at a lower price than Regular 87. The only indication that Unleaded 88 is really an E15 product is on the little orange sticker on the dispenser next to the nozzle.

The widespread adoption of Unleaded 88 is fraught with other challenges. Current retail infrastructure tops the list for limiting factors. During a recent presentation by one of the ethanol industry groups, they claimed "they have sites selling E15 that are 30 years old." But have they made all the upgrades necessary to be doing it legally?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), thread sealants certified for ethanol blends beyond E10 weren't available in the marketplace before 2007, and EPA doesn't believe all sites have

used the +E10 thread sealant since that date due to its higher cost. This is just one of the many items in an underground storage tank (UST) system that needs to be approved for use with blends of ethanol over 10%. Others include flex piping systems, gaskets, seals; the list is extensive. Every site is different, and retailers must do the extensive due diligence necessary to responsibly adopt this new product. In addition, E15 is not approved for all cars or other types of motorized machinery. Consumers that unknowingly use an E15 product could have their warranty coverages voided. Responsible ethanol industry messaging to retail operators must begin with the true financial commitment necessary to responsibly and legally sell E10+ fuels.



This drawing (Source America) illustrates the areas that use of the proper thread sealant (aka pipe dope) can affect compatibility with ethanol or biodiesel fuels to prevent seeps to the systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued guidance about the compatibility of pipe dope with ethanol blends greater than 10 percent in its Technical Compendium that accompanies the 2015 federal underground storage tank regulations.

The OCC form, **Equipment Compatibility Checklist** must be completed and submitted in order to store greater than ten percent (10%) ethanol or higher than 20% biodiesel:

<http://www.occeweb.com/ps/Forms/Compliance%20Forms/PSTD%20Equipment%20Compatibility%20Checklist.doc>.

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT:

OES CORPORATE OFFICE WILL BE MOVING TO OUR NEW LOCATION at
2424 North Kelley Avenue, OKC 73111
on MARCH 1, 2020!

OKLAHOMA TO ISSUE REAL ID_s ON APRIL 30TH

The clock is ticking on getting Oklahoma upgraded to Real ID! Starting Oct. 1, passengers will need a Real ID or another acceptable form of ID to board a commercial flight at all U.S. airports. But it will still be a few months before Oklahomans can get their hands on one. According to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the state will begin issuing Real IDs on April 30 at select locations in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, with full statewide implementation by the end of August.

Click [HERE](#) for a checklist on what documents you need to bring to apply for a Real ID.

U.S. GAS STATIONS RUSHING TO MEET EMV COMPLIANCE DEADLINE

01/07/2020, Convenience Store News



With the EMV compliance shift on the forecourt looming, operators are on the move to upgrade their equipment to accept chip-enabled debit and credit cards. Beginning Oct. 1, the liability shifts to the party in the payment chain with the least secure payment technology.

As the clock counts down, the gas station industry is "massively under-prepared." Gas POS sells point-of-sale systems. The forecourt deadline was already pushed

back once. Under the original EMV liability shift deadlines, c-store retailers needed to upgrade their POS to EMV-ready readers by Oct. 1, 2015; at the ATM on Oct. 1 2017; and at the forecourt by Oct. 1, 2017 in order to avoid being held financially responsible for fraudulent transactions, as *Convenience Store News* previously reported. Why? As of November 2018, the U.S. Secret Service was seizing as many as 30 skimmers a week, each holding stolen data from an average of 80 cards. As more and more c-stores and gas pumps become EMV compliant, skimmers/data thieves will put an even bigger target on the brands that aren't making the investment. The Merchant Advisory Group (MAG) requested

another two-year delay; however, Visa and Mastercard formally stated in writing that they remain committed to the October 2020 liability shift activation date, according to Laura Townsend, senior vice president of MAG. "The payment networks have made it clear that they are not moving the deadline, and the resultant spike in chargebacks starting next October may drive some retailers out of business," she said last month. Businesses will first need to consult with their vendors or oil brand to determine the availability of POS software for outdoor EMV acceptance. Then, they will need to determine if they can retrofit their existing fuel dispensers or will have to replace them, followed by an overall site survey. After the upgraded fuel dispensers are ordered, they can be installed and upgraded with POS software.

The U.S. has over 153,000 retail fueling and convenience stores. Approximately 80% of stores sell fuel and well over 60% of stores are owned by a single store operator. "The payment standard-setting process needs to be more open," said Anna Ready Blom, director of government relations for NACS. "Retailers and technology companies should have been part of the planning and decision-making on chip cards from the start. If they had been, rather than Visa and Mastercard making all the decisions without understanding them fully, we wouldn't be in this mess."

DEQ Offering [Free Radon Test Kits to Oklahoma Residents](#)

For Immediate Release: January 22, 2020 Contact: Erin Hatfield, (405) 702-7119

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as National Radon Action Month. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with EPA in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage citizens to take action to protect their homes and families.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium inside the earth. Radon is dispersed in outdoor air but can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risk of radon, but never has there been such clear evidence that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans.

EPA estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

"There is a lack of public awareness on the prolonged human exposure to radon and its link to lung cancer", says Oklahoma Lung Cancer Initiative Founder/President, Jenny Banner. "The more we can educate Oklahomans on the risks associated with exposure to radon, the better chance we have about helping to save lives."

Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and free. EPA estimates that 1 in every 15 homes nationwide has a high radon level at or above the recommended radon action level of 4 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. DEQ encourages Oklahomans to act during this year's National Radon Action Month by testing their homes for radon. For a free test kit, contact DRHOMEAIR at 1-800-324-5928 or www.drhomeair.com/ok.