



Is E15 the Fuel of the Future?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency have commenced discussions aimed at raising ethanol blending levels to as high as 15% ethanol. Other agencies, such as the Department of Energy, are researching whether today's non-flexible fuel vehicles can satisfactorily operate on blends of E15 and E20.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 mandates 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be used annually by 2022. Higher percentile ethanol fuel blends will increase the amount of ethanol used in the long run, while also possibly fixing a short-term problem with ethanol production overcapacity that has forced numerous ethanol bankruptcies.

Meanwhile, Underwriters Laboratories has taken a position that dispensing equipment listed for E10 blends are not approved for E15, even when some equipment subassemblies have been tested with E15. According to the American Coalition for Ethanol, ACE, the fuel marketing community has understood the standard UL 87 to cover the use of dispenser pumps up to 15% ethanol.

Ron Lamberty, Vice President of the American Coalition for Ethanol sent a letter to UL accusing UL of making an arbitrary change to the UL 87 standard. ACE also suggests that UL has "treated ethanol issues with carelessness and at times appears to have an anti-ethanol bias."

The letter points out that even though the UL 87 standard does not specifically mention E10 or E15, it refers to underlying standards that employ phrases such as "ethanol does not exceed 15 percent" and "approved for gasoline/ethanol blends up to 15 percent ethanol."

UL confirmed that it is in talks with DOE and EPA with relation to higher ethanol blends, but said only that "if new Federal guidelines are established that approve higher ethanol blend levels for public use, UL will review products currently certified under UL 87 to determine whether UL can provide data enabling the authorities having jurisdiction to approve such use."

Please select the following link for more information from [Biofuels Digest](#).

The letter sent by American Coalition for Ethanol to UL can be [viewed here](#).

Underground Storage Tank Program Facts

The Office of Underground Storage Tanks issued their annual Underground Storage Tank Program Fact letter in December. Some of the highlights, accessible at the [EPA web site](#), include:

- 623,000 active regulated UST's at approximately 235,000 sites
- 1.7 million regulated UST's have been closed since 1984 and 377,019 tanks have been cleaned-up
- Operation compliance statistics of UST's include 80% meeting spill, overfill, and corrosion protection requirements as well as 75% meeting leak detection requirements
- 36 States have approved UST programs and 40 States provide clean-up funds

In a letter dated November 20, 2008, EPA OUST announced that 100,000 UST inspections took place in 2008, as shown in [this copy of the letter](#). The recent Energy Policy Act now requires States to inspect each facility every three years, so this is a new requirement. With 623,000 UST's in the regulated community, at least 200,000 tanks would need to be inspected each year, on average.

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Scaffolding, Cranes & Derricks

The STI/SPFA Safety & Health Committee completed its review and update of its two safety pocket books entitled "Tank Builders Scaffold Guidelines" and "Basic Safety Rules for Fabrication, Field Erection, and Warehousing." A 2009 edition will be published later this year. Current edition of pockets books are available and can be ordered from the [STI/SPFA Publication Index](#) on its website.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration will hold an informal public hearing on the proposed cranes and derricks in construction standard rule that was published in the October 9, 2008 edition of the Federal Register. As cranes and derricks are used in the construction of field erect tanks, STI/SPFA will participate.

Steel Industry Reaches New Milestone in Energy Efficiency

The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported that the United States steel industry has achieved a new milestone in energy efficiency by reducing its energy intensity per ton of steel shipped by approximately 33 percent since 1990. Because of the close relationship between energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, the industry's aggregate carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per ton of steel shipped have also been substantially reduced. Compared to the Kyoto Protocol's call for an average U.S. reduction of 7 percent in greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2012, this means the American steel industry has already surpassed the Kyoto target.

Upcoming Seminars and Conferences of Interest

STI Cathodic Protection Testing Training, **March 11 – 12, Columbia, SC** - Additional information and onling registration are available [here](#).

API/NFPA Safe Tank Entry Workshop, **March 17-18, Webster TX**
[Click here](#) for additional information about the *API/NFPA Safe Tank Entry Workshop*.

21st Annual [National Tanks Conference](#), March 30 – April 1, Sacramento, CA

STI SP001 Aboveground Tank System Inspector Training, April 20 – 24, Baltimore, MD - Training information and details can be viewed and accessed [here](#).

STI/SPFA Steel Water Storage Tank Seminars, April 22, Harrisburg, PA and May 13, Nashville, TN. For information and registration, visit the [STI/SPFA website](#).

STI /SPFA Shop Fabricated Atmospheric Tank Members' Quality Control Meeting, May 1 – 2, Columbus, OH

STI/SPFA Cathodic Protection Testing Course, May 12 - 13 - Burlington, VT - Details and online registration may be viewed and accessed [here](#).