E15 Retailer Facts

What is E15?

The EPA defines E15 as a blend of gasoline that contains greater than 10% ethanol, and up to 15% ethanol. Under current Wisconsin law, E15 must be sold as an alternative fuel, and cannot be labeled as gasoline.

What vehicles may use E15?

Model year 2001 and newer cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles (SUVs); and flexible-fuel vehicles (FFVs) are allowed by the EPA to use E15.

What vehicles and engines may NOT use E15?

All motorcycles; all vehicles with heavy-duty engines, such as school buses, transit buses, and delivery trucks; all off-road vehicles, such as boats and snowmobiles; all engines in off-road equipment, such as lawn mowers and chain saws; all model year 2000 and older cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles (SUVs) are prohibited from using E15 by federal law.

Is approval required to switch my current fuel dispensing system to sell E15?

Yes, storage tank plan approval is required. A DATCP certified installer or professional engineer must complete part I of the department's TR-WM-132 Alternative Fuel Installation/Conversion Application Form and submit it to the department as part of the plan review submittal.

A list of DATCP certified installers can be found here: https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List_of_Tank_Specialty_Firm_Registrations.pdf

The TR-WM-132 Alternative Fuel Installation/Conversion Application Form can be found here: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PetroleumHazStorageTanksForms.aspx

Before commencing normal fueling operations using E15, the operator must notify the state inspector for their area to arrange for a pre-operational inspection. The operator must complete part II of the department's TR-WM-132 Alternative Fuel Installation/Conversion Application Form and provide the completed form to the state inspector performing the pre-operational inspection. The inspector for your area can be found here: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/StorageTankContacts.aspx

What steps are required to switch my current fuel dispensing system to sell E15?

Please see our E15 Tank or Dispenser Conversions Fact Sheet for information on the steps you must take to convert your storage tank and dispensing system to sell E15.
Do I need to make changes to my storage tanks or dispensing equipment to store and sell E15?

Equipment used for dispensing E15 must be listed or must be recognized by the manufacturer as being compatible with ethanol-blended fuel, except where otherwise approved in writing by the department.

Equipment used to store or dispense fuel consisting of more than 10 percent ethanol by volume may not contain or consist of any of the following materials:

(a) **Metals.** Zinc, lead, aluminum or alloys containing these metals, such as brass or terne.
   
   **Note:** Terne-plated steel and lead-based solder are commonly used in equipment that handles gasoline. These materials will dissolve when in contact with high concentrations of ethanol.

(b) **Natural materials** Cork, leather or natural rubber.

(c) **Polymers.** Polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polyamides, or methyl-methacrylate plastics.
   
   **Note:** Materials that have been shown to be generally compatible with high concentrations of ethanol include unplated steel, stainless steel, black iron, bronze, Neoprene rubber, Buna-N, polypropylene, nitrile, Viton, Teflon, thermoset reinforced fiberglass and thermoplastic piping material.

Do I need separate nozzles if I sell both E15 and E10, or both E15 and no-ethanol fuel?

Product remaining in the hose from a previous E15 transaction could result in a detectable level of ethanol in a small volume purchase of no-ethanol product. Please be aware that Wis. Stat. § 168.11(1)(b)1 requires a device “that dispenses a gasoline-ethanol fuel blend for sale at retail shall be marked or labeled with the percentage of ethanol at all times when the product is offered for sale.”

The same fueling nozzle and hose may be used to dispense E15 and E10 or no-ethanol gasoline if:

- Each dispenser has a label which states that a minimum purchase of 4 gallons is required. The label must be prominently affixed on the front upper half of the dispenser and must be conspicuous and legible to a customer when viewed from the driver's seat of a motor vehicle that is located within 6 feet of the dispensing device.
  
  -- or --

- All of the following apply:
  
  o There is at least one dispenser that has a fueling nozzle and hose that dispenses only E10 or no-ethanol gasoline
  
  o That dispenser has a label which states “Passenger Vehicles Only. Use in Other Vehicles, Engines and Equipment May Violate Federal Law.” The label must be prominently affixed on the front upper half of the dispenser and must be conspicuous and legible to a customer when viewed from the driver's seat of a motor vehicle that is located within 6 feet of the dispensing device.
  
  o The retail station displays signs informing customers of the availability and location of that dispenser.

What fuel quality specifications would E15 be subject to in Wisconsin?

E15 is an alternative fuel, so it is not subject to the automotive gasoline standards in Wisconsin. However, ATCP § 94.200 requires that the ethanol used to make E15 must meet the specifications as outlined in ASTM D4806-09, and the gasoline used must meet ASTM 4814-15a standards.

What do I need to know about labeling E15 at the dispenser?

Please see our Alternative Fuel Labeling: E15 fact sheet on our website here: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Publications/WeightsAndMeasuresBureauFactSheets.aspx

Are there EPA requirements for E15?

For information on EPA requirements, please visit the EPA website: https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/e15-fuel-registration