



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

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WINTER 2010

BOATER BRIEF

ETHANOL SPECIAL

ETHANOL (E-10 & E-15)

On October 13, 2010, the EPA approved the use of E-15 fuels for vehicle models 2007 and newer. Testing continues for model years 2001 through 2006 and a decision is expected in the New Year. Marine engines are specifically excluded from the EPA's decision, but marine engine builders and industry experts warn this decision could have a wide range of negative impacts on boating.

Boaters responded to a "Call to Action" from Boat U.S., and over 15,000 boaters sent messages to President Obama asking him for "science first" before allowing E-15 in the nation's gasoline supply. California boaters should visit the Boat U.S. website www.boatus.com/gov to keep up-to-date as Boat U. S. continues its leadership role in advocating boater interest in this area.

Mercury Marine, the top marine engine builder said:

"It is inevitable that higher ethanol blends will find their way into other unintended applications."

"We join other groups in the belief that the level of testing performed to support the EPA decision was inadequate and that the processes designed to prevent the unintended use of this fuel blend in non-highway applications or older vehicles are inadequate."

"Fuel containing higher proportions of ethanol is not compatible with many

fuel system and engine components and, if mistakenly used, will cause irreversible damage to these components that will lead to engine failure and potential safety risks."

RBOC is informed that **NO boat on the market today has been designed, or is under warranty, to operate using fuels with greater than 10 percent ethanol.** Therefore, all boaters are encouraged to carefully check your warranties and be extremely deliberate about what fuel is going into your boat's fuel tank.

Ethanol is a solvent. Fiberglass tanks, soft metal parts and gaskets seem to have the most trouble with E-10 and E-15 fuels. Ethanol scours fuel tanks dislodging gums, resins and other debris which clog fuel filters. Shown below are a few tips for dealing with these problems.

Support RBOC

RBOC represents all California boaters and operates solely on donations from boaters like YOU! We need your help. All boaters are encouraged to donate \$20 per boating family, but all donations are needed and appreciated. Please send your contributions to: RBOC, 925 L Street – Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814-3703, OR donations may be made on-line at www.rbo.org using Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover or PayPal. Donations are not tax deductible due to RBOC's extensive lobbying efforts.

Tips for Boaters

- ▶ Change your fuel filters often.
- ▶ Carry spare 10 micron filters and a bucket to store used filters. Size (i.e. cut/trim) your container to fit under the filter(s) before heading out. It is easier to do this task on shore.
- ▶ Place a pad to absorb fuel in the bottom of the bucket.
- ▶ Make certain fuel hoses are compatible with ethanol.



- ▶ Boats with fiberglass fuel tanks, should check with the manufacturer to determine if tanks can withstand ethanol.
- ▶ Run outboards dry before storing.
- ▶ Use fuel stabilizers for fuel that is going to be sitting for long periods (note: stabilizers will not prevent phase separation).