

## Regulatory Advisory: September 28, 2023

### EARLY TRANSITION TO WINTER-BLEND GASOLINE

#### Scope and Applicability

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is issuing a Regulatory Advisory (Advisory) today, September 28, 2023, effective immediately, regarding CARB requirements for gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure. In response to direction received from the Governor in a [September 27, 2023, letter](#), that CARB allow an early transition to winter-blend gasoline, and as a matter of its enforcement discretion in light of CARB's determination of its regulatory enforcement priorities, CARB is allowing the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of winter blend gasoline. This Advisory will remain in effect only until midnight, Pacific Daylight Time, October 31, 2023, unless otherwise superseded by subsequent CARB regulatory action or advisory. This Advisory applies to any person who sells, offers for sale, supplies, offers for supply, or transports California gasoline.

#### Regulatory Framework for California Reformulated Gasoline

The California Reformulated Gasoline (CaRFG) regulations limit, among other properties, the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) of gasoline sold, offered or sale, supplied, offered for supply, or transported within the State ([title 13, California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), section 2262 et seq.](#)). In order to control evaporative emissions of hydrocarbons, the RVP of summertime gasoline is generally restricted to a production or importation limit of about 7.0 pounds per square inch (psi). These summertime RVP limits apply through October 31 for most of California, depending on the air basin. These RVP limits are lifted in the wintertime when ozone formation is less of a problem.

#### Steps Taken for Early Transition to Winter-Blend Gasoline

The gasoline market in California is currently experiencing very high prices for reasons that the California Energy Commission is examining, which may include an unusual spot market transaction, refinery maintenance and undersupply, and global crude oil prices.

In response to direction by the Governor to help address the above fuel-related issues, CARB will exercise its enforcement discretion to allow gasoline sold or supplied for use in the State that exceeds the RVP limits in title 13, CCR, section 2262, from the effective date of this Advisory through the end of October 31, 2023. This action is necessary to address the extreme fuel supply circumstance caused by the events described above and is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety or general welfare. CARB will take steps to mitigate any air quality impacts caused by this action. As outlined in the Governor's September 27 letter, CARB will also work with the Governor's Office on assessing

whether California can take further steps to transition away from gas-burning vehicles and equipment, including through infrastructure and other programs.

CARB will continue to enforce all other requirements of the CaRFG regulations, including other fuel properties, specifications, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements. In addition, nothing in this Advisory modifies, replaces, supersedes, or otherwise changes any other requirements applicable to gasoline under local, State, or federal law or regulation. Persons regulated by the CaRFG regulations should continue to sell or distribute gasoline meeting the current California RVP limits where such supplies are available.

## **For More Information**

For any questions regarding this Advisory, please contact Ms. Carolyn Lozo, Chief, Oil, Gas, and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Branch at (279) 208-7306 or via email at [carolyn.lozo@arb.ca.gov](mailto:carolyn.lozo@arb.ca.gov).