

Extension of the Summer Gasoline Volatility Standard to the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Fort Collins-Loveland, Colorado, 1997 8-hour Nonattainment Area

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing regulations which extend the federal summertime low volatility requirements to those portions of the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Fort Collins-Loveland, Colorado 8-hour Nonattainment Area not currently covered.

Summary of the Final Rule

The final rule establishes an applicable standard of 7.8 pounds per square inch (psi) Reid vapor pressure (RVP) under the federal volatility control program in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Ft. Collins-Loveland, CO, 8-hour ozone nonattainment area (as codified in volume 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 81) during the high ozone season - June 1st to September 15th of each year-beginning in 2010. This action requires the use of 7.8 psi RVP gasoline in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, and in portions of Larimer and Weld counties.

Background

Evaporative emissions from gasoline, referred to as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), are precursors to the formation of tropospheric ozone and contribute to the nation's ground-level ozone problem. Exposure to ground-level ozone can reduce lung function (thereby aggravating asthma or other respiratory conditions), increase



susceptibility to respiratory infection, and may contribute to premature death in people with heart and lung disease.

Section 211(h) of the Clean Air Act , requires that EPA promulgate regulations establishing a maximum RVP of 9.0 psi for gasoline introduced into commerce during the high ozone season. It also provides that EPA shall “establish more stringent Reid Vapor Pressure standards in a nonattainment area as the Administrator finds necessary to generally achieve comparable evaporative emissions (on a per-vehicle basis) in nonattainment areas, taking into consideration the enforceability of such standards, the need of an area for emission control, and economic factors.”

In today’s action, EPA is establishing an applicable standard for gasoline at 7.8 pounds per square inch (psi) under the federal volatility control program in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Ft. Collins-Loveland, Colorado, 8-hour ozone nonattainment area (as codified in volume 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 81) during the high ozone season, beginning in 2010. This action requires the use of 7.8 psi RVP gasoline in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, and in portions of Larimer and Weld counties.

Gasoline with 7.8 psi RVP is already required in the former 1-hour ozone nonattainment area, which represents a significant portion of the fuel used in the area. As a practical matter, the net change in this action extends the low RVP fuel requirement to portions of Larimer and Weld counties and into the remaining portions of Arapahoe, Adams, Boulder and Broomfield counties.

For More Information

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