The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct) requires fleets operated by state governments and alternative fuel providers to acquire alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). The requirements of sections 501 and 507 were designed to promote the use of nonpetroleum fuels, such as ethanol, methanol, natural gas, propane, hydrogen, and electricity, to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. The regulations focused on building an inventory of vehicles that can use alternative fuels in large light-duty vehicle (LDV) fleets in large metropolitan areas.

After EPAct was enacted, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began a formal rulemaking process with public input to establish the implementing regulations. The resulting State & Alternative Fuel Provider (S&FP) Program requires state and alternative fuel provider fleets to include a percentage of AFVs in their acquisitions of new LDVs, starting with model year (MY) 1997 vehicles.

Between the program’s launch in 1997 and MY 2001, state and alternative fuel provider fleets have collectively purchased more than 60,000 AFVs. These vehicles have begun to form a critical mass of fuel demand, allowing fleets and private businesses to start to justify the development of a fueling infrastructure. In response to this new market, automobile manufacturers are producing more than 30 AFV models, which fleets and individuals outside the S&FP Program are purchasing.

Who Is Covered?

EPAct requirements for the S&FP Program apply to fleets operated by state government agencies and businesses whose principal activity is based on alternative fuels. Compliance is required by fleets that operate, lease, or control 50 or more LDVs within the United States. Of those 50 vehicles, at least 20 must be used primarily within a single Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA). Those same 20 vehicles must also be centrally fueled or capable of being centrally fueled, meaning they can be fueled at least 75% of the time at a location that is owned, operated, or controlled by the fleet or under contract with the fleet for fueling purposes.

You can obtain a more detailed definition of “alternative fuel provider” or a list of covered areas at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/state_fleets.html or by calling the National Alternative Fuels Hotline at (800) 423-1363.

Acquisition Requirements

When DOE initiated the S&FP Program, a “phase-in” schedule was established to allow fleets to comply gradually. The table on the next page shows how the acquisition requirements apply to covered fleets for MY 1997-2001 and beyond. As of MY 2001, the acquisition requirements were fully phased in. As a result, the percentage of new LDVs that must now be AFVs is 75% for state fleets and 90% for alternative fuel providers.

If a state or alternative fuel provider fleet became eligible for EPAct regulation following its implementation in 1997, the fleet must comply with the acquisition requirements for the year in which it became covered. It is important for fleets to notify...
DOE of their covered status immediately. DOE will work with fleets in these situations to help them understand the EPAct requirements.

In some cases, DOE may grant an exemption from the AFV acquisition requirements if fuels or vehicles are not available. For more information on exemptions, see DOE’s exemption guidance document at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/pdfs/exemption_guide.pdf.

For More Information
S&FP Program Web site
www.ott.doe.gov/epact/state_fleets.html

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What Is EPAct?
The Energy Policy Act of 1992, or EPAct, was passed by Congress to reduce the nation’s dependence on imported petroleum. Provisions of EPAct require certain fleets to purchase alternative fuel vehicles. DOE administers the regulations through its State & Fuel Provider Program, Federal Fleet Program, Private & Local Government Program, and Fuel Petition Program. EPAct also includes voluntary programs, such as Clean Cities, which help accelerate the use of alternative fuels in transportation.

For more information, visit www.ott.doe.gov/epact/ or call the Regulatory Information Line at (202) 586-9171.

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