

Adoption of E20 fuel

December 19, 2020

In news

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published a draft notification, seeking comments from the public for the adoption of E20 fuel

Key highlights of the notification

- The notification facilitates the development of E20 compliant vehicles.
- It will also help in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons, etc.
- It will help reduce the oil import bill, thereby saving foreign exchange and boosting energy security.

Vehicle compatibility

- The compatibility of the vehicle to the percentage of ethanol in the blend of ethanol and gasoline shall be defined by the vehicle manufacturer and the same shall be displayed on the vehicle by putting a clearly visible sticker.

What is E20 fuel?

- E20 fuel, i.e, blend of 20% of ethanol with gasoline, as an automotive fuel and for the adoption of mass emission standards for this fuel
- The current permissible level of blending is 10% of ethanol though India reached only 5.6% of blending in 2019.

Common ethanol fuel mixtures

Code	E5	E10	E15	E25	E85	E100
Composition	max 5% anhydrous ethanol min 95% gasoline	max 10% anhydrous ethanol min 90% gasoline	max 15% anhydrous ethanol min 85% gasoline	max 25% anhydrous ethanol min 75% gasoline	max 85% anhydrous ethanol min 15% gasoline	5.3% water 100% Brazilian hydrous ethanol (contains on average 5.3 vol% water)
Countries	Western Europe today	USA today (Western Europe in near future)	USA EPA approval cars > 2000	Brazil	USA / Europe	Brazil

Gasoline blends for use in regular cars

Flex Fuel Vehicles

What is Ethanol?

- Ethanol is a biofuel and a common by-product of biomass left by agricultural feedstock such as corn, sugarcane, hemp, potato, etc.
- Ethanol fuel is ethyl alcohol, the same type of alcohol found in alcoholic beverages, used as fuel. It is most often used as a motor fuel, mainly as a biofuel additive for gasoline.

Ethanol Blending policy proposed in India:

- The proposed ethanol policy will focus on the key features of manufacturing, sale, utilization and blending.
- The policy has proposed a roadmap, which would “increase blending by states from 5 percent to **12-15 percent by 2026**, and then increase to 20 percent by 2030.”
- Under the proposed policy, the government is likely to allow use of grain for ethanol and is likely to allow use of maize to supplement ethanol supplies from

cane/molasses in the next two-three months.

- The government would fix ethanol prices by next quarter for maize and is likely to fix realistic transport rates at par with petrol to address the price issue.
- To fix transportation challenges the policy will enable creation of pipeline infrastructure for ethanol movement.
- On GST rates, the government is likely to reduce 28 percent GST on molasses, and reduce 18 percent on special denatured spirit to 5 percent. (GST on ethanol is 5 percent from July 2018).