TO: All Agency Heads  
FROM: Jane Benton, Director  
DATE: December 23, 2008  

ACA § 15-13-205 requires the Department of Finance & Administration to implement a policy regarding the standard of biofuel usage, effective January 1, 2009.

Requirements:


All diesel-powered motor vehicles, light trucks, and equipment owned or leased by a state agency shall be operated using diesel fuel that contains a minimum of two percent (2%) biofuels by volume.

Policy:

When available and economically feasible all State agencies are required to purchase diesel fuel that contains at least a minimum of two percent (2%) biofuels by volume for all State diesel powered motor vehicles, light trucks and equipment.

Implementation:

Each agency should develop a directive to comply with this policy when biofuel is available in the area and economically feasible. Please communicate to all employees the new policy and to use prudent judgment when purchasing diesel fuels.

Please feel free to call the Office of State Procurement if questions arise or you need assistance, 501.324.9316.
For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO DEVELOP THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS INDUSTRY IN ARKANSAS BY ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS, STANDARDS FOR THE PERCENTAGE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS IN THE DIESEL FUEL USED IN MOTOR VEHICLES, AND STANDARDS FOR QUALITY OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO DEVELOP THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS INDUSTRY IN ARKANSAS BY ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AND STANDARDS FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS USED IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15 is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Act”.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Alternative fuels" means biofuels or ethanol;

(2)(A) "Biofuels" means a renewable, biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from biomass or other renewable resources that can be used as transportation fuel, combustion fuel, or refinery feedstock and that meets the American Society for Testing and Materials Specification and federal quality requirements as in effect on February 1, 2007, for each category or grade of fuel.

(B) "Biofuels" includes without limitation:

(i) Biodiesel or renewable diesel;

(ii) Renewable gasoline;

(iii) Renewable jet fuel;

(iv) Renewable naptha;

(v) Biocrude; and

(vi) Other renewable, biodegradable, mono alkyl ester combustible fuel derived from biomass;

(3)(A) "Biomass" means any matter derived from plants or animals that is used for the production of alternative fuels.

(B) "Biomass" includes residues or byproducts from:

(i) Agricultural production;

(ii) Agricultural processing;

(iii) Forest or wood resources;

(iv) Forestry or wood production; or

(v) Forestry or wood processing.

(C) "Biomass" includes plant material from crops that are produced for use in the production of alternative fuels and cellulosic biomass.

(D) "Biomass" does not include recycled petroleum oil;

(4) "Ethanol" means ethyl alcohol derived from biomass that:

(A) Meets the American Society for Testing and Materials Specification D4806-04a for ethanol as in effect on January 1, 2007; and

(B) Is denatured as specified in 27 C.F.R. Part 20 and Part 21 as in effect on January 1, 2007;

(5) "Other renewable resources" means any material that can be recycled, regenerated, reclaimed, or reused; and
(6) "State agency" means any office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, or other entity created by the General Assembly.

The per annum goal for alternative fuels production at production facilities in the state is fifty million gallons (50,000,000 gal.) by October 1, 2008.

Beginning on January 1, 2009, all diesel-powered motor vehicles, light trucks, and equipment owned or leased by a state agency shall be operated using diesel fuel that contains a minimum of two percent (2%) biofuels by volume.

The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration may grant a waiver for a variance from the biofuels standard under § 15-13-104 if the applicant demonstrates one (1) or more of the following:

1. The cost of diesel fuel that is blended with biofuels exceeds the cost of diesel that does not contain biofuels by fifteen cents (15¢) per gallon or more;

2. Diesel fuel blended with biofuels is not available for purchase in the geographic region; or

3. Compliance with the biofuels standard is not economically feasible.

15-13-106. Quality determinations and testing.
(a) The Arkansas Bureau of Standards of the State Plant Board shall make the determination that alternative fuels used in this state:

1. Are useable in motor vehicles;

2. Meet the specifications for biofuels and ethanol as provided under § 15-13-102; and

3. Undergo quality assurance testing to ensure fuel quality and continued consumer confidence in alternative fuels.

(b) The Director of the Arkansas Bureau of Standards may:

1. Establish a fuel testing laboratory;
(2) Contract with a laboratory for testing;

(3) Adopt rules on false and misleading advertising, labeling, and posting of prices; and

(4) Adopt the standards for alternative fuels.

The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration shall promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the administration of this chapter.

/s/ R. Thompson

APPROVED: 3/30/2007