

Emissions Policy: Fuel Quality Standards



The Australian Government introduced national Fuel Quality Standards for petrol and diesel in 2002. Since then, standards have been released for biodiesel, LPG and E85.

A fuel labelling standard has been set for the ethanol blends E10 and E85, to advise petrol consumers and reduce the risk of mis-fuelling vehicles.

What are the Fuel Quality Standards?

The Commonwealth *Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000* and the *Fuel Quality Standards Regulations 2001* set national fuel quality and information standards for Australia.

The Act and Regulations place an obligation on the fuel industry to supply fuel that meets strict standards.

Why were the Standards Implemented?

Fuel quality standards complement vehicle emissions standards to reduce air toxic emissions.

Reduced air toxic emissions benefit the community's health, reducing the incidence and impacts of respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

The Fuel Quality Standards also safeguard consumers, as many newer vehicles require fuels that meet high standards in order to function as designed.

How Are the Standards Enforced?

The Australian Government's *Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities* (SEWPC) operate a monitoring, compliance and enforcement program. The program includes sampling along fuel supply chains.

Under the Act, suppliers must report on fuel they produce and supply.

SEWPC also considers fuel quality complaints received by other groups, such as motoring clubs, consumer affairs and environment agencies in targeting its compliance checking.

Further information:

Email: DPTI.LowEmissionVehicles@sa.gov.au

Web: www.lowemissionvehicles.sa.gov.au



Government of South Australia

Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

Do the Standards Affect Vehicle Owners?

The Fuel Quality Standards place no obligations on private motorists or commercial vehicle operators.

The Standards apply to the fuel industry for the benefit of motor vehicle owners and the broader community.

Figure 1: Example of Ethanol Labelling
(from SEWPC)



If you are a consumer of petrol, look out for the ethanol blends, E10 and E85. While ethanol is a low emission fuel, not all vehicles are compatible.¹

If you have a cause to suspect poor fuel quality supply, contact [SEWPC](http://www.sewpc.sa.gov.au).

The South Australian Government provides this policy summary to assist the community, and is not able to warrant the currency or accuracy of the information in this fact sheet. The Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000 is Australian Government policy and subject to change. Below are web links to information from the Australian Government.

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See Also:

- [Transport Fuels](#)
- [Emissions Policy: Australian Design Rules](#)
- [Emissions Policy: Carbon Pricing](#)
- [Emissions Policy: Fuel Tax Credit](#)
- [Emissions Policy: In-Service Diesel Performance](#)

External Links:

- [Fuel Quality Standards](#)

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