



SERVICE BULLETIN

DATE: 7/24/2012

BULLETIN NUMBER: 265

SUBJECT: Ethanol Blended Gasoline

MODEL(S) AFFECTED: Westerbeke Gasoline Engines and Generator Sets - All Models

DETAIL: Fuels containing up to 10% ethanol are considered acceptable for use in Westerbeke gasoline engines and generator sets. Fuels containing higher levels of ethanol are not considered acceptable for use, and the use of fuels containing ethanol higher than 10% can void the warranty.

Be aware of the possibility that gas stations and fuel docks may offer gasoline with an ethanol content greater than 10%, and this may not be apparent or known to the purchaser at the pump.

The NMMA recently published this announcement regarding E15 warning labels and boat manufacturers. Click below to read the publication or see the attachment:

www.multibriefs.com/briefs/nmma/E15_labels0724.pdf

High concentrations of ethanol can cause damage to fuel system components such as seals, filters, hoses, etc.



NMMA Distributes E15 Warning Labels to Manufacturers for use on Boats

Beginning this week, NMMA is distributing 100,000 E15 warning labels to NMMA member boat manufacturers across the country to place on their boats in hopes of alerting boaters to the potential dangers of fuel with a high volume of ethanol. The labels will help educate boaters that E15 should not be used in their boat.

Contrary to numerous studies that have shown ethanol to be hazardous to marine engines, the Environmental Protection Agency recently approved a plan submitted by the ethanol industry that effectively completes the last step in the regulatory process and allows E15 to enter the marketplace.

There are serious and well-documented human safety, environmental, and technological concerns associated with ethanol blends over 10 percent in recreational boat fuel tanks and engines. That means that anything above E10 can pose serious problems, including performance issues like stalling, corrosion leading to oil or fuel leaks, increased emissions and damaged valves, rubber fuel lines and gaskets.

Three years ago the ethanol industry filed a waiver with EPA to expand the amount of ethanol allowed in gasoline from 10 percent to 15 percent. Since then, EPA has approved two partial waivers that allow the fuel to be sold in cars from model years 2001 and newer and taken a series of steps to bring the fuel closer to the marketplace. NMMA along with the oil industry, food groups and other stakeholders have continued to oppose the introduction of E15.

It is important for consumers to stay aware at their local gas pumps, checking for any high ethanol fuels and to use only E10 or lower in their vessels. NMMA President Thom Dammrich says, "We encourage manufacturers to take action to help educate boaters by placing these E15 warning labels on their boats to warn about the dangers posed by E15 and help prevent costly and dangerous long term engine damage."

For questions or media inquiries please contact Lauren Dunn at 202-280-6928 or ldunn@nmma.org.

NMMA Currents is produced by National Marine Manufacturers Association

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