



Enforcement Division

Advisory

to: PROPANE PRODUCERS,
DISTRIBUTORS, WHOLESALERS, AND
RELAERS

Number 175

April 28, 1999

LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL REQUIREMENTS

1. The California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 2296.2 sets forth specifications for liquified petroleum gas (LPG) that is sold, offered for sale, or supplied as an alternative fuel intended for use in motor vehicles in California. This includes all "propane" used to propel motor vehicles both on and off road in California. These specifications are currently as follows: propane 85.0 vol%(min), vapor pressure at 100degF 208psig(max), volatility residue:evaporated temp. 95% -37degF or butane and heavier 2.5 vol% (max), propene 5.0 vol%(max), residual matter: residue on evap. of 100ml
2. Propane in California is produced to either meet a commercial grade specification or a motor vehicle grade specification. Motor vehicle grade propane will also meet commercial grade specifications, but commercial grade propane does not have to meet motor vehicle grade specifications. This is primarily due to the amount of propene in the mixture. Motor vehicle grade propane can contain no more than 10 percent propene. Propene content of LPG is a concern because of its higher smog producing quality, its tendency to lower the knock limited compression ratio, and its impact on other vehicle durability and driveability problems.
3. This advisory is written to inform affected parties that the Air Resources Board plans to implement a program to enforce the motor vehicle LPG specifications. Regulations have been in effect since January 1, 1993; however, debate had been ongoing regarding the specification values. The Board recently, however, has made final adjustments to those values and does not expect to consider any further changes. It is therefore urgent that all parties involved in the production, distribution, wholesaling and resaling of propane take steps to comply with the regulation in order to avoid significant penalties. Notwithstanding, the Air Resources Board may take enforcement action based upon past violations of the law.

If you have any questions about this advisory, please contact Mark Stover, Manager, Fuels Enforcement Section at (916) 322-2056. Written inquiries may be addressed to:

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