

Renewable Fuels Standard Regulation

Fact sheet

If information in this document conflicts with the Renewable Fuels Greenhouse Gas Emissions Eligibility Standard (the Emissions Standard), the Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act (the act) or the Renewable Fuels Standard Regulation (the regulation), then the Emissions Standard, Act and/or Regulation prevail over this document.

Overview

The Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) Regulation is designed to reduce life cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Alberta's transportation sector. The RFS mandates the blending of renewable fuels with gasoline (a minimum of five per cent by volume) and diesel (a minimum of two per cent by volume) placed by fuel suppliers in the Alberta market for sale in a given calendar year. Renewable fuels blended with gasoline or diesel are required to meet a minimum GHG reduction requirement on life cycle basis of at least 25 per cent relative to the fossil fuel they are blended with.

Regulatory threshold

The RFS blending mandate applies to any entity (fuel supplier) refining, manufacturing or acquiring through an inter-refiner agreement, gasoline or diesel fuel for sale in the Alberta market in a given calendar year. Only importers of liquid fossil fuels into Alberta importing more than 400,000 litres of gasoline or diesel in a calendar year are subject to the requirements of the RFS.

Renewable fuels eligibility

The RFS allows for eligible renewable alcohols (including ethanol) and bio-based diesels (including biodiesel and renewable diesel) to be used for blending with gasoline and diesel. Any renewable fuel that is supplied for blending with gasoline or diesel under the RFS must meet the definitions of qualifying renewable alcohol or bio-based diesel under the regulation. The life cycle GHG emissions for a renewable fuel are determined through the Alberta GHGenius model available on the RFS resources web page.

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) maintains a list of recognized renewable fuel pathways in [Appendix A: Lookup Table](#). Requests for modifications to an existing renewable fuel pathway or the creation of new pathways are permissible as described in the [Emissions Standard](#).

Any qualifying renewable fuel supplied under the RFS must have a validation reference number (valid for the period that the fuel was supplied) provided by EPA to an [approved RFS greenhouse gas validator](#) on behalf of the producer or importer of the renewable fuel ([renewable fuel provider](#)).

Aviation fuels

The regulation also recognizes the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) for blending with aviation fuel where the volume of SAF is counted towards the volumetric obligation in the gasoline or diesel pool, provided the SAF meets the definition of qualifying renewable alcohol or bio-based diesel in the regulation. EPA recognizes the National Standard of Canada CAN/CGSB-3.23-2020 aviation turbine fuel (grades JET A and JET A-1), as an appropriate Canadian General Standards Board standard approved by the director for a SAF blended under the RFS.

Blender opt-in

Any entity that does not qualify as a fuel supplier but does undertake the blending of renewable fuels with gasoline, aviation or diesel fuels for sale in the Alberta market in a given calendar year can apply to be an approved contributor by written application to the director. An approved contributor may notionally transfer volumes of eligible renewable fuels to fuel suppliers to meet their compliance requirements in a given calendar year.

Compliance flexibility

The RFS provides fuel suppliers with compliance flexibility:

- Unlimited ability to use notionally transferred volumes of renewable fuels from other fuel suppliers or approved contributors to meet volumetric obligations on or before March 31 following the calendar year for which the volumes are used.
- Ability for fuel suppliers to obtain fund contributions up to five per cent of the volumetric obligation in a given calendar year on or before March 31 following the calendar year for which the contributions are used.

Compliance reporting

On or before March 31 every year, renewable fuel providers, fuel suppliers and approved contributors under the RFS are required to submit compliance reports and any other required documents to EPA for the previous calendar year. Failure to fulfill compliance reporting requirements is an offence under the Regulation and may result in a fine.

Interaction with the CFR

The volumes of renewable fuels used to meet any volumetric requirements under the federal Clean Fuel Regulations in Alberta can be used towards the volumetric requirements under the RFS if the renewable fuel meets all requirements to be a qualifying renewable fuel under the RFS. The determination of the life cycle GHG emissions of any renewable fuels used under the RFS follow the Alberta GHGenius model.

Renewable fuels facility approvals and permits

Approvals or permitting of renewable fuels facilities in Alberta is not within scope of the RFS. Contact the Regulatory Approvals Centre with these inquiries at rac.environment@gov.ab.ca

Contact

Email RFS-related enquiries to fuel.ghg@gov.ab.ca