

## Alternative Fuel Transportation Program Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Alternative Fuel Transportation Program (the Program) offers covered state and alternative fuel provider (SFP) fleets resources to help them comply with applicable requirements. This document is an overview for a packet of helpful information for covered fleets.

This Program overview includes the following information:

- About the Program
- Compliance Options
- Resources.

Learn more about the Program online at [epact.energy.gov](http://epact.energy.gov).

### About the Program

DOE manages several transportation-related regulatory activities established by Energy Policy Act (EPAct) 1992, as amended by the Energy Conservation Reauthorization Act of 1998, EPAct 2005, and the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007.

The Program requires covered state government and alternative fuel provider fleets to acquire alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) as part of their annual acquisitions of light-duty vehicles (LDVs) (according to 42 U.S.C. §§13251, 13257). This AFV-acquisition requirement is called the "Standard Compliance" Option (SC). In 1998, Congress amended EPAct 1992 to allow covered fleets to earn credits toward compliance for the purchase and use of certain biodiesel blends. In EPAct 2005, Congress provided increased compliance flexibility by adding the "Alternative Compliance" Option (AC), under which covered fleets may reduce petroleum consumption in lieu of acquiring AFVs. Regulations promulgated pursuant to EISA 2007 will allow additional compliance flexibility, allowing DOE to allocate credits for a number of electric-drive vehicles.

### Compliance Options

The two principal compliance options for covered fleets include SC (AFV acquisitions) and AC (petroleum-use reduction). Compliance options are fulfilled for each Model Year (MY) in which the fleet is covered. The MY is September 1 through August 31.

#### Standard Compliance

Under SC, covered fuel provider fleets and state agencies must meet an annual AFV-acquisition requirement. For covered state agencies, 75% of the fleet's non-excluded LDV acquisitions during the MY must be AFVs. For fuel provider fleets, the acquisition requirement is 90%.

Fleets may meet their SC requirements by acquiring the requisite number of new or used AFVs, obtaining AFV credits from other covered fleets, or, within 120 days of acquisition, converting conventional vehicles to run on alternative fuel. Covered fleets may meet up to half of their annual AFV-acquisition requirement by purchasing

and using biodiesel blends of 20% (B20) or greater in medium- or heavy-duty vehicles. Learn more at [epact.energy.gov/standard-compliance](https://epact.energy.gov/standard-compliance).

**Excluded Vehicles:** Certain vehicles are excluded from the calculations for determining both whether a fleet is covered and, for covered fleets, the annual AFV-acquisition requirement. Excluded vehicles include:

- Employee-assigned take-home vehicles
- Emergency vehicles
- Law enforcement vehicles
- Non-road vehicles, including Global Electric Motorcars and other low-speed vehicles.

**Exemptions:** Fleets operating under SC may apply for exemptions from the AFV-acquisition requirement for specific vehicle acquisitions. DOE may approve these vehicle-exemption requests based only on an existing lack of available (1) alternative fuels and/or (2) AFVs that meet the fleet's needs. Additionally, state fleets may request a vehicle-acquisition exemption on the basis of unreasonable financial hardship.

DOE reviews acquisition-exemption requests on a case-by-case basis. Such exemptions serve as an administrative relief of a last resort for fleets that are (1) unable to satisfy their AFV-acquisition requirement through normally available compliance options and (2) have exhausted all other compliance options.

Guidance and a sample exemption request are available at [epact.energy.gov/exemptions](https://epact.energy.gov/exemptions).

**Annual Report:** By December 31, covered fleets must file an annual report identifying all non-excluded LDVs, including LDV AFVs, that the fleet acquired during the MY. DOE employs an online SC reporting option for which fleets register. For help with reporting, contact 844-561-2211 or [epact.sfp.fleets@nrel.gov](mailto:epact.sfp.fleets@nrel.gov). Learn more about annual reports at [epact.energy.gov/reporting](https://epact.energy.gov/reporting).

### Alternative Compliance

Under AC, covered fleets may obtain a waiver from the AFV-acquisition requirements of SC by submitting for approval and then implementing a plan to reduce petroleum consumption. Learn more about AC at [epact.energy.gov/alternative-compliance](https://epact.energy.gov/alternative-compliance).

AC might be a good option for fleets that:

- Have many medium- or heavy-duty vehicles capable of using biodiesel;
- Wish to combine hybrid vehicles and alternative fuel use;
- Have limited access to light-duty AFVs; and/or
- Are subject to state or local requirements or policies (e.g., calling for petroleum reduction, or reductions in greenhouse gases or emissions).

**Requirements:** Fleets opting into AC have three deadlines to meet. They must file:

- **Intent to Apply for a Waiver**—a simple registration of intent that is due March 31 before the MY for which an AC waiver is sought
- **Waiver Application**—due to DOE on or before July 31 before the MY for which an AC waiver is sought, and which provides a plan for reducing petroleum consumption
- **Annual Report**—due December 31 following the AC waiver year.

**Tools and Example Documents:** Several useful online tools are available to help fleets. The Alternative Compliance Tutorial offers step-by-step instructions on how to participate in the AC option. Also, fleets may use the Alternative Compliance Planning Tool, which helps fleets determine their petroleum-reduction requirement and develop strategies to reduce conventional fuel use. An example AC waiver request application and an example AC annual report are also available. These tools and example documents are available at [epact.energy.gov/tutorial-alternative-compliance](http://epact.energy.gov/tutorial-alternative-compliance).

## Resources

The Program's website ([epact.energy.gov](http://epact.energy.gov)) is an invaluable resource that includes an overview of Program activities and provides access to guidance documents, information and instructions on reporting, fact sheets, and other resources.

The Program operates a Regulatory Information Line (202-586-9171) to help covered fleets with Program-related questions. You can also reach the Regulatory Information Line by email at [regulatory.info@nrel.gov](mailto:regulatory.info@nrel.gov).

The U.S. Department of Energy is committed to helping covered fleets comply with the requirements of the Alternative Fuel Transportation Program. If you have additional questions or would like to discuss the Program, please contact the Program at 202-586-9171 or [regulatory.info@nrel.gov](mailto:regulatory.info@nrel.gov).