

## **Specific E10 FAQs**

### **What is E10 petrol?**

E10 petrol is a new fuel specification for petrol powered vehicles and equipment. The E10 petrol fuel specification has the same quality standards as the current regular unleaded 95 petrol but allows for the inclusion of up to 10% ethanol, whereas the current regular unleaded 95 petrol allows the inclusion of only up to 5% ethanol.

Ethanol is a form of alcohol, which is obtained through the fermentation and distillation of crops, known as feedstocks, such as grains, sugars or straw. In addition to ethanol there are a number of other renewable and sustainable fuels which have similar properties and effects on the vehicle as ethanol. For simplicity these are all referred to as E10 petrol.

### **2. Why is E10 petrol being introduced?**

There are mandatory European targets to introduce renewable fuels into the road transport sector in order to reduce the GHG emissions of transport; biofuels are one way to meet these targets. E10 petrol is a simple method to introduce renewable fuels into the UK market and is compatible with the vast majority of current vehicles.

### **3. What is the difference between E10 and unleaded petrol?**

E10 petrol meets the same quality standards as current Unleaded Petrol 95 except that a greater volume of renewable fuels may be blended into it. This specification of petrol is being introduced across Europe, including France, Germany and Finland where the fuel has been available since 2011.

The quality of petrol is controlled by the British Standard, BS EN 228. This British Standard has been in use since 1967, in various forms, and has undergone many changes. The latest revision defining E10 petrol was published in March 2013.

### **4. Will there be any change to the performance of my car if I use E10 petrol?**

Cars that are fully compatible with E10 petrol (as defined on the compatibility list) will not see any deterioration of performance.

E10 petrol has the same minimum octane rating as existing grades of unleaded.

If fuel use is measured, a slight increase in volumetric fuel consumption may be experienced of approximately 1-2%. This is due to ethanol having lower energy content than petrol but a higher oxygen content which may improve the combustion process. However, in practice other factors such as driving style and vehicle maintenance, have a much greater impact on fuel consumption.

### **5. Will I have to use E10 petrol?**

No. The existing grade of unleaded petrol is likely to be available whilst demand for it continues although this might not be the case on every petrol station forecourt.

## **6. When is E10 petrol being introduced?**

The new standard for E10 petrol was published early in 2013. Different retailers may choose to introduce E10 petrol on different timescales, therefore availability of E10 petrol may vary by geographical area and branded outlet.

E10 petrol will be clearly labelled at the dispenser. The standard marking for all dispensers using the new E10 petrol grade is set out in the British Standard, and will follow the form below:

**UNLEADED  
PETROL  
95 E10**

**Not suitable for all vehicles: consult  
vehicle manufacturer before use**

**BS EN 228**

The '95' in the label refers to the minimum octane rating, RON, of the fuel.

## **7. Will my ...**

### **i. car run on E10 petrol?**

Diesel vehicles cannot use E10 petrol.

If you have a petrol car you should check the latest version of the official UK car compatibility list which will be available before E10 is introduced, or contact your manufacturer.

### **ii. motorcycle run on E10 petrol?**

Riders of 2-wheeled, 3-wheeled and quadricycle vehicles should check the latest advice on the [Motorcycle Industry Association](#) website or consult the vehicle manufacturer. If in doubt, continue to use 'Unleaded 95' petrol and/or 'Super Unleaded' petrol as usual.

### **iii. lawnmower, hedge trimmer and other petrol engine powered equipment run on E10 petrol?**

Always consult the manufacturer concerning any non-automotive petrol engine powered devices. If in doubt, continue to use 'Unleaded 95' petrol and/or 'Super Unleaded' petrol as usual.

## **8. My car, motorcycle or petrol powered equipment is incompatible with E10 petrol, where can I get unleaded petrol and for how long?**

It is a commercial decision for individual fuel retailers which fuels they sell. However, unleaded petrol is likely to be available while demand for this fuel continues. Motorists should check their local fuel retail site. If the dispenser does not have the 'E10 petrol' label then this will be the current standard unleaded petrol, so if your car is not compatible with E10 petrol you can use this fuel instead. Diesel cars cannot use E10 petrol.

### **9. Why are some petrol powered vehicles and equipment not compatible with E10 petrol?**

Some petrol engines, especially older ones, may face some issues of material compatibility when using E10 petrol, which may affect the vehicle/devices' fuel system and/or engine. Diesel cars cannot use E10 petrol.

### **10. What should I do if I fill up with E10 petrol by mistake?**

Before you fill up with E10 petrol please check to see if your vehicle is compatible. If you do misfuel with E10 petrol we recommend that the tank is drained. If it is necessary to drain the fuel from the tank you should contact your roadside assistance provider or vehicle manufacturer for advice. Please ensure it is done by a competent organisation and replaced by the correct grade of petrol.

### **11. Is E10 petrol going to cost more or less than unleaded petrol?**

The pricing of fuels is a matter for individual retailers. We cannot predict how much either fuel will cost.

### **12. Can I use E10 if I drive in Europe?**

Whilst E10 is not yet available here in the UK, it is widely available elsewhere in Europe including France, Germany and Finland, typically at a lower price than regular 95 RON unleaded.

Pumps dispensing E10 will be clearly marked (SP95-E10 in France) but before you consider using E10 you should check directly with your vehicle manufacturer to confirm whether your vehicle is compatible. If it is not then you should only fill with regular or super unleaded petrol (SP95 or SP98 in France).

### **13. Are biofuels sustainable?**

There are many sources of feedstocks for biofuels; crops, specific crop elements, waste streams and agricultural processes. All biofuels added to petrol and diesel in the UK meet the sustainability requirements set out in the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC). The Directive requires all biofuels produced to achieve a minimum level of GHG savings and meet a set of stringent sustainability criteria in order to count towards the target.

Bioethanol is one of the most sustainable fuels available in volume and, according to the latest Department for Transport statistics, delivers carbon savings of 55% compared to fossil petrol.

*Source: DfT RTFO period 5 report 2 - April – October 2012.*

The LowCVP and the UK have been at the forefront of developing the most robust sustainability criteria which have been incorporated into UK legislation. We continue to press for international agreement on sustainability measures.

#### **14. Where can I get more information?**

We are working with industry to gather all the information you may need before this product comes into the market.

Consumer information for the public is under discussion but in the meantime if you have any media enquiries regarding:

- the fuel standard (BS EN228) or the fuel itself you should contact the [UK Petroleum Industry Association](#) (UKPIA) or the [Downstream Fuels Association](#) (DFA).
- cars you should contact [SMMT](#) or your vehicle manufacturer.
- motorcycles, 3-wheeler or quadricycles you should contact the [Motor Cycle Industry Association](#).

If you have specific questions please send them into the [LowCVP Secretariat](#) and we will keep updating the Q&A to respond to these.