

EPA Finalizes 2013 Biomass-Based Diesel Volume

In today's action we are establishing an applicable volume of 1.28 billion gallons for biomass-based diesel (BBD) for 2013. This volume represents an increase over the 1.0 billion gallons that was required in 2012, and will provide a substantial portion of the advanced biofuel requirement of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program. We are setting this volume for 2013 based on consideration of the factors specified in the statute, including a consideration of biodiesel production, consumption, and infrastructure issues. As required under the statute, we also assessed the likely impact of BBD production and use in a variety of areas, including climate change, energy security, the agricultural sector, air quality, and others.

Today's final rule does not specify the percentage standard for biomass-based diesel in 2013, but only the applicable volume. The percentage standards for cellulosic biofuel, biomass-based diesel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel that will be applicable in 2013 will be proposed in a separate Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Background

Under the Clean Air Act Section 211(o), as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to determine and promulgate the applicable volume of biomass-based diesel that will be required in 2013 and beyond, as the statute does not specify the applicable volumes for years after 2012.

In a final rulemaking published on January 9, 2012, we specified the 2012 standards for cellulosic biofuel, biomass-based diesel, advanced biofuel, and total renewable fuel. At that time we did not finalize the applicable volume of biomass-based diesel for 2013, explaining that we were continuing to evaluate the many comments on the July 1, 2011 proposal from stakeholders as well as fulfilling other analytical requirements.

Establishing the Standard

The volume we are finalizing today is feasible and consistent with the overall analytic approach to the RFS2 program and also consistent with the overall intent of the Act to expand the use of renewable fuels through the year 2022. Producers of biodiesel, the largest contributor to biomass-based diesel, have significantly greater production capacity than will be required by today's final rule. Moreover, many facilities that are producing volume currently are underutilizing their capacity, and can ramp up production relatively quickly. Finally, the biodiesel industry is already producing at a rate consistent with an annual volume of about 1.3 billion gallons which is enough to meet our established standards.

For More Information

For more information on this proposal, please visit the RFS website at:

www.epa.gov/otaq/fuels/renewablefuels

To submit a question on the RFS program, and to view Frequently Asked Questions, please visit:

www.epa.gov/otaq/fuels/renewablefuels/compliancehelp/index.htm