



July 27, 2012

Dear Marine Five Star Certified Dealer,

The National Marine Manufacturers Association has long opposed bringing high ethanol fuel to the marketplace. Unfortunately, and contrary to numerous studies that have shown ethanol to be hazardous to marine engines, the Environmental Protection Agency recently approved a plan submitted by the ethanol industry that effectively completes the last step in the regulatory process and will allow E15 to be brought to local fueling stations nationally. In an effort to help prevent misfueling, NMMA is making E15 warning labels available to Marine Five Star Certified Dealers, free of charge. These labels are intended to be placed near the fuel fill on gasoline powered boats, warning boaters to not use fuel blends containing 15 percent ethanol. We encourage you to place these on boats that are currently in-use, as they come in for service and storage, and on any boats currently in your inventory.

As E15 gasoline blends enter the US fuel supply, a variety of gasoline powered products are at substantial risk for damage, including marine engines. As you may know, use of E15 in boats will have potentially catastrophic effects on marine engines that are designed, tested, calibrated, and manufactured for E10 or below. Ethanol blends higher than E10 can have a substantial negative impact on marine gasoline engine performance and longevity, causing problems such as stalling, corrosion leading to oil or fuel leaks, increased emissions and damaged valves, rubber fuel lines and gaskets.

Ninety-five percent of all recreational boats are fueled at traditional gas stations, and if E15 becomes the commonly-available blend at these stations, misfueling will occur, and marine engines will be damaged. Since the EPA has not required fuel retailers to continue to make E10 available, consumers may not readily find the fuels they need for their boats.

NMMA continues to work on behalf of the industry, challenging the EPA's approval with legal action and requesting further testing be completed by the EPA prior to introduction of E15. While our efforts continue, these labels will help mitigate potential problems as E15 becomes more readily available.

These complimentary labels will continue to be made available to Marine Five Star Certified Dealers over the next several months. If you require additional labels, please contact the NMMA Fulfillment department at 312.946.6209.

For more information on NMMA's lobbying efforts regarding E15, please contact NMMA legislative director, Jim Currie at [jcurrie@nmma.org](mailto:jcurrie@nmma.org) or 202-737-9760.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Dammrich  
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