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Use of E15 (Gasoline-Ethanol Blend) in Mercury Marine Engines

Models Affected

Models Affected	Serial Numbers
All MerCruiser gasoline engines and Mercury Racing Sterndrive engines	All
All Mercury, Mariner, and Mercury Racing Outboard engines	All
All Jet Drive Sport Jet engines	All

Scope

United States.

Situation

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently waived a limitation on selling fuel containing more than 10% ethanol. The waiver allows the sale of fuel containing up to 15% ethanol (E15) for use in newer cars and light trucks.

US EPA regulations do not allow E15 fuel to be used in our engines.

The fuel system components on Mercury Marine engines are designed to use fuels containing up to 10% ethanol content in the gasoline. We do not know what percentage the boat's fuel system will withstand. Contact the boat manufacturer for specific recommendations on the boat's fuel components (fuel tanks, fuel lines, and fittings).

Ethanol is infinitely soluble in water. With vented fuel tanks, ethanol will tend to attract moisture, which can form a layer consisting of ethanol and water. Over time, the layer will separate from the gasoline and sink to the bottom of the fuel tank (phase separation). Long periods of storage, common to boats, will increase the chance of this condition.

IMPORTANT: When operating a Mercury Marine engine on gasoline containing ethanol, storage of gasoline in the fuel tank for long periods should be avoided. Long periods of storage create unique problems. Whereas in cars, ethanol blend fuels normally are consumed before they can absorb enough moisture to cause trouble, boats often sit idle long enough for phase separation to take place. In addition, corrosion may occur during storage if ethanol has washed protective oil films from internal engine components.

Be aware that using gasoline containing ethanol may have the following effects:

- Increased corrosion of metal parts
- Deterioration of rubber or plastic parts
- Fuel permeation through rubber fuel lines
- Difficulty starting and operating

We therefore recommend that ethanol-free gasoline be used whenever possible. If the only fuel available contains ethanol, or if the presence of ethanol is unknown, increased frequency of inspection for leaks and abnormalities is required.

For additional information concerning the use of gasoline blended with ethanol, refer to Mercury Outboard Service Bulletin 2006-10R1 or MerCruiser Service Bulletin 2006-07.

Warranty

Use of E15 in our products is not approved. Engine damage resulting from the use of E15 fuel is considered misuse of the engine, and resulting damage will not be covered under the limited warranty.

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