

September 10, 2008

GSA BULLETIN FMR B-21  
MOTOR VEHICLE MANAGEMENT

TO: Heads of Federal agencies

SUBJECT: Use of Premium Fuel

1. What is the purpose of this bulletin? This bulletin provides a deviation for executive agencies to purchase premium fuel for Government owned and leased vehicles when lower grade fuels are not available due to market shortages in the following counties and other areas impacted by Hurricane Ike in the state of Texas: Aransas, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Liberty, Matagorda, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Wharton, and Willacy.

2. What are the effective dates of this bulletin? The provisions in this Bulletin are effective for a period of one year from the date of the Presidential Emergency Declaration affecting the above-referenced counties in the state of Texas (September 10, 2008), unless extended or rescinded by this office.

3. What is the background? The Federal Management Regulation (FMR), Subpart B, section 102-34.335 (41 CFR 102-34.335), requires drivers to use the grade (octane rating) of fuel recommended by the motor vehicle manufacturer when fueling motor vehicles owned or leased by the Government. Present restrictions prohibit the use of premium grade fuel in motor vehicles owned or leased by the Government that will operate on a lower grade of fuel.

As a result of the Presidential Declaration of a State of Emergency for the above-referenced counties and other areas affected in the state of Texas due to Hurricane Ike, executive agencies may encounter fuel shortages in the affected areas and may not be able to acquire lower grade fuel for their vehicles to complete their missions. The original intent of FMR section 102-34.335 was to reduce fuel costs and the unnecessary use of premium fuel in vehicles capable of being operated on lower grade fuel.

4. What should I do as a result of this bulletin? Executive agencies may allow the use of premium fuel if lower grade fuel is not available to complete the agency's mission or to support the disaster relief program in the affected areas. In certain cases, the ability of the Federal Government to obtain low octane fuel may be compromised by the disruption of the supply chain in the affected areas.

In keeping with the original intent of FMR section 102-34.335, agencies should be prudent in using premium fuel only when a lower grade fuel is not available. As part of the fuel charge card program, agencies should continue to routinely monitor the use of premium fuel through reports provided by their charge card vendors.

5. Who should I call for further information? Contact Janet Dobbs, Program Director, Vehicle Management Policy, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-6601 or email at [janet.dobbs@gsa.gov](mailto:janet.dobbs@gsa.gov).

By delegation of the Administrator of General Services

Kevin Messner  
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