

Transport Topics

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TA to Sell Urea for SCR At All 234 Truck Stops

By Frederick Kiel
Staff Reporter

TravelCenters of America said June 12 that all 234 of its TravelCenters of America and Petro Stopping Centers have been stocked with 2.5-gallon containers of diesel exhaust fluid, which will be needed to operate most new over-the-road trucks built next year and thereafter.

Some diesel-powered passenger vehicles already are operating in North America using selective catalytic reduction technology to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions. About 80% of all heavy-duty diesel engines built after Jan. 1 also will use SCR, which mixes DEF with NOx in the exhaust system, converting it to water vapor and harmless nitrogen.

Ready access to DEF has been a prime concern among truckers considering the purchase of trucks using SCR to comply with Environmental Protection Agency emission standards because of a requirement that engine makers install equipment that would halt a truck running

with an empty DEF tank.

"All sites should be placing their DEF bottles on store shelves over the next several weeks as they reset their retail space," Tom Liutkus, spokesman for TravelCenters, told TRANSPORT TOPICS. "The retail price for these prepackaged containers is \$9.99 per [2.5-gallon] bottle or \$3.99 per gallon."

DEF is expected to be less expensive if bought in bulk. Many Class 8 SCR trucks are expected to have DEF tanks that hold 20 to 30 gallons.

As with other truck stops, such as Pilot Travel Centers and Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, TravelCenters has said it will install bulk containers as DEF demand grows. All the truck stops interviewed for this story said they will begin installing the containers this year.

"We have one bulk-storage dispenser operational in Ann Arbor, Mich., which opened in May," Liutkus said. "We are evaluating our long-term bulk strategy to coincide with the ramp-up of demand."

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Trucks fuel up at a TravelCenters of America truck stop near Interstate 5 in Corvallis, Ore.

TravelCenters Stocks DEF

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When stored at room temperature, DEF's shelf life is a minimum of two years, manufacturers have said.

"Each of our bottles has a production date and a statement not to use it more than 18 months after that production date," Liutkus said.

The TravelCenters statement also said, "DEF is now available to every one of the 400 RoadSquad emergency roadside assistance vehicles at TA and Petro locations for trucks who run out of DEF while on the highway."

"[TravelCenters] and Petro are pleased . . . to have completed a critical phase-in fulfilling the travel center industry's most comprehensive and flexible DEF supply plan," the statement added.

The containers are "vented bottle style, supplied by Colonial Chemical Co., Tabernacle, N.J., [which] will optimize flow speed and includes an extended nozzle for easy dispensing," the statement said.

TravelCenters of America, Westlake, Ohio, operates truck stops and travel centers in 41 states and Canada, the company said.