



June 26, 2025

Dear Iowa fuel retailer,

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has an important update to share regarding the E15 Access Standard going into full effect on January 1, 2026.

The Department recognizes many fuel retailers around the state are working hard to come into compliance before the end of the year. This increased demand means licensed installers may have limited capacity to complete fuel infrastructure upgrades by December 31, 2025. **If your business has shown a good faith effort to complete infrastructure improvements to come into compliance with the E15 Access Standard but is at risk of not completing upgrades by the December 31 deadline, you can apply for Safe Harbor Designation.** A Safe Harbor Designation gives retail fuel sites additional time to come into full compliance. For businesses granted a Safe Harbor Designation, **the Department will exercise enforcement discretion at retail fuel sites until September 30, 2026.**

To apply for a Safe Harbor Designation:

1. Download and complete an application form at [iowaagriculture.gov/e15access](http://iowaagriculture.gov/e15access)

**AND**

2. Provide one of the following supporting documents:

**Option A:** A copy of a purchase order, work order, installation agreement/contract, or invoice for equipment and/or infrastructure updates

**OR**

**Option B:** A copy of a submitted, active application for an Iowa Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program (RFIP) E15 cost-share grant

3. Submit the completed application, along with attached supporting documentation, via email to Mike Harrington at [mike.harrington@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:mike.harrington@iowaagriculture.gov) by September 30, 2025.

Safe Harbor applications will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis, and licensees will be notified of their approval status within 7 to 10 business days. **Fuel retailers that are approved for a Safe Harbor Designation must come into full compliance with the E15 Access Standard by September 30, 2026.**

Non-compliant, non-exempt fuel retailers that did not apply, or were not approved, for a Safe Harbor designation may face enforcement actions beginning on January 2, 2026. The Iowa Legislature has authorized the Department to fine non-compliant, non-exempt fuel retailers up to \$1,000 per day. If a fuel retailer is not acting in good faith to come into compliance, the Department may suspend or revoke the retailer's fuel license.

The Department encourages licensed fuel retailers to take action now to come into full compliance and avoid penalties.

If you would like more information about the RFIP cost-share program, visit [iowaagriculture.gov/irfip](https://iowaagriculture.gov/irfip). If you have questions, please contact Mike Harrington at [mike.harrington@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:mike.harrington@iowaagriculture.gov) or (515) 321-0031.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Travis Knight".

Travis Knight  
Regulatory Division Director  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship