

supply, offer for supply, store or transport gasoline that does not comply with the applicable sulfur cap standard under § 80.195, § 80.216, § 80.210, § 80.220, § 80.240, or does not comply with an adjusted cap standard approved for a small refiner under § 80.271.

(c) *Causing an averaging, cap standard, or geographic phase-in area (GPA) use violation.* Cause another person to commit an act in violation of paragraph (a), (b), or (f) of this section.

(d) *Causing violating gasoline to be in the distribution system.* Cause gasoline to be in the distribution system which does not comply with an applicable sulfur cap standard under § 80.195, § 80.210, § 80.216, § 80.220 or § 80.240; a sulfur average standard under § 80.195, § 80.216 or § 80.240; or a GPA use prohibition under § 80.219(c).

(e) *Denatured ethanol violation.* Blend into gasoline denatured ethanol with a sulfur content higher than 30 ppm.

(f) *GPA use violation.* Produce, import, sell, offer for sale, dispense, supply, offer for supply, store or transport gasoline that does not comply with a GPA use prohibition under § 80.219(c).

(g) Failure to use sufficient sulfur credits or allotments to offset a per-gallon cap adjustment. For a small refiner that has an approved adjustment of its per-gallon cap sulfur standard for a refinery under § 80.271, to fail to obtain (or generate) and use the required number of sulfur credits or allotments to offset the revised per-gallon cap sulfur standard under § 80.217(d).

[65 FR 6823, Feb. 10, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 40184, June 12, 2002]

**§ 80.390 What evidence may be used to determine compliance with the prohibitions and requirements of this subpart and liability for violations of this subpart?**

(a) Compliance with the sulfur standards of this subpart shall be determined based on the sulfur level of the gasoline, measured using the methodologies specified in §§ 80.330(b) and 80.46(a). Any evidence or information, including the exclusive use of such evidence or information, may be used to establish the sulfur level of gasoline if the evidence or information is relevant to whether the sulfur level of gasoline would have been in compliance with

the standards if the appropriate sampling and testing methodology had been correctly performed. Such evidence may be obtained from any source or location and may include, but is not limited to, test results using methods other than those specified in §§ 80.330(b) and 80.46(a), business records, and commercial documents.

(b) Determinations of compliance with the requirements of this subpart other than the sulfur standards, and determinations of liability for any violation of this subpart, may be based on information obtained from any source or location. Such information may include, but is not limited to, business records and commercial documents.

**§ 80.395 Who is liable for violations under the gasoline sulfur program?**

(a) *Persons liable for violations of prohibited acts.—(1) Averaging violation.* Any refiner or importer who violates § 80.385(a) is liable for the violation.

(2) *Causing an averaging violation.* Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, retailer, wholesale purchaser-consumer, or oxygenate blender who causes another party to violate § 80.385(a), is liable for a violation of § 80.385(c).

(3) *Cap standard violation.* Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, retailer, wholesale purchaser-consumer, or oxygenate blender who owned, leased, operated, controlled or supervised a facility where a violation of § 80.385 (b) occurred, is deemed in violation of § 80.385(b).

(4) *Causing a cap standard violation.* Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, retailer, wholesale purchaser-consumer, or oxygenate blender who produced, imported, sold, offered for sale, dispensed, supplied, offered for supply, stored, transported, or caused the transportation or storage of gasoline that violates § 80.385(b), is deemed in violation of § 80.385(c).

(5) *GPA use violation.* Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, retailer, wholesale purchaser-consumer, or oxygenate blender who owned, leased, operated, controlled or supervised a facility where a violation of § 80.385(f) occurred, is deemed in violation of § 80.385(f).

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(6) Causing a GPA use violation. Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, retailer, wholesale purchaser-consumer, or oxygenate blender who produced, imported, sold, offered for sale, dispensed, supplied, offered for supply, stored, transported, or caused the transportation or storage of gasoline that violates § 80.385(f), is deemed in violation of § 80.385(c).

(7) *Branded refiner/importer liability.* Any refiner or importer whose corporate, trade, or brand name, or whose marketing subsidiary's corporate, trade, or brand name appeared at a facility where a violation of § 80.385(b) or (f) occurred, is deemed in violation of § 80.385(b) or (f), as applicable.

(8) *Causing violating gasoline to be in the distribution system.* Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, or oxygenate blender, who owned, leased, operated, controlled or supervised a facility from which gasoline was released into the distribution system which does not comply with an applicable sulfur cap standard, a sulfur averaging standard, or a GPA use prohibition, is deemed in violation of § 80.385(d).

(9) *Carrier causation.* In order for a carrier to be liable under paragraph (a)(2), (4), (6), or (8) of this section, EPA must demonstrate, by reasonably specific showing by direct or circumstantial evidence, that the carrier caused the violation.

(10) *Denatured ethanol violation.* Any oxygenate blender who violates § 80.385(e) is liable for the violation.

(11) *Parent corporation liability.* Any parent corporation is liable for any violations of this subpart that are committed by any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

(12) *Joint venture and joint owner liability.* Each partner to a joint venture, or each owner of a facility owned by two or more owners, is jointly and severally liable for any violation of this subpart that occurs at the joint venture facility or facility owned by the joint owners, or is committed by the joint venture operation or any of the joint owners of the facility.

(13) *Failure to use credits violation.* Any small refiner that has an approved adjustment of its per-gallon cap under § 80.271 and that does not obtain (or generate) and use the required number

of sulfur credits or allotments under § 80.271(d) by the time it submits its annual report under § 80.370 is deemed in violation of § 80.385(g).

(b) *Persons liable for failure to meet other provisions of this subpart.* (1) Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, wholesale purchaser-consumer, retailer, or oxygenate blender who fails to meet a provision of this subpart not addressed in paragraph (a) of this section is liable for a violation of that provision.

(2) Any refiner, importer, distributor, reseller, carrier, wholesale purchaser-consumer, retailer, or oxygenate blender who caused another person to fail to meet a requirement of this subpart not addressed in paragraph (a) of this section, is liable for causing a violation of that provision.

[65 FR 6823, Feb. 10, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 40184, June 12, 2002]

### § 80.400 What defenses apply to persons deemed liable for a violation of a prohibited act?

(a) Any person deemed liable for a violation of a prohibition under § 80.395 (a)(3) through (8), will not be deemed in violation if the person demonstrates that:

(1) The violation was not caused by the person or the person's employee or agent; and

(2) The person conducted a quality assurance sampling and testing program, as described in paragraph (d) of this section. A carrier may rely on the quality assurance program carried out by another party, including the party who owns the gasoline in question, provided that the quality assurance program is carried out properly. Retailers and wholesale purchaser-consumers are not required to conduct quality assurance programs.

(b) In the case of a violation found at a facility operating under the corporate, trade or brand name of a refiner or importer, or a refiner's or importer's marketing subsidiary, the refiner or importer must show, in addition to the defense elements required under paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section, that the violation was caused by: