

Superethanol-E85, a solution to rising fuel prices, ever more accessible thanks to government-approved E85 conversion systems

The Bioethanol Collective is delighted with the publication of the amendment order of 19 February 2021, henceforth enabling E85 conversion systems approval for vehicles of 15 fiscal HP and above and expanding approvals already issued to include cars fitted with a Gasoline Particulate Filter. Motorists thus have an effective, legal solution to use Superethanol-E85, applicable to 9 out of 10 petrol-powered vehicles on the roads today, namely most of petrol-powered vehicles registered since 2001.

Since the [French government authorised the approval of E85 conversion systems by decree in late 2017](#), Superethanol-E85, sold at an average price of €0.67/litre, became the best fuel in terms of value for money for motorists driving petrol-powered vehicles. With fuel prices rising again since November 2020, Superethanol-E85 is looking increasingly attractive to motorists.



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Superethanol-E85 at €0.67/litre, a great way to counter rising fuel prices

In France, in February 2021, fuel prices were back at the same level as in February 2020, before the first lockdown. They have especially been rising in the past few months, with the Brent crude oil price leaping from \$39 on 6 November 2020 to \$63 by 1 March 2021. Concurrently, the average diesel pump price increased from €1.20/l to €1.37/l¹ by 19 February 2021, that's another €0.17/l. That of Unleaded 95-E10 increased from €1.30/l to €1.46/l¹, i.e. an increase of €0.16/l. **Superethanol-E85 only rose by an average of 0.02€/l over the same period, from €0.65/l to €0.67/l¹.** It is looking increasingly attractive to motorists, helping to save over €500 a year for 13,000 km, compared to classic unleaded petrol.

Government-approved E85 conversion systems: some 10 million petrol-powered vehicles ready

Most petrol-powered cars registered since 1 January 2001 and compatible with Unleaded 95-E10 may now be fitted with a government-approved conversion system. In all, that's a potential of some 10 million petrol-powered cars which are now eligible to conversion system. The publication of the amended decree of 19 February 2021 means motorists will be able to have a government-approved conversion system fitted immediately to **vehicles fitted with Gasoline Particulate Filters**. It also means that manufacturers of E85 conversion systems can be approved for **vehicles boasting 15 fiscal HP and above**. These vehicles will benefit from a tax break capped at €750 off the regional portion of registration tax.

Government-approved E85 conversion systems and flexfuel vehicles, the only legal means to run on Superethanol-E85

According to the decree of 18 December 2020 amending that of 28 December 2006 pertaining to the characteristics of Superethanol-E85, **Superethanol-E85 is to be used exclusively in petrol-powered cars compatible with Unleaded 95-E10 and fitted with a government-approved E85 conversion systems, as well as flexfuel cars.**

The approval of conversion conversion systems provides **motorists with greater security with respect to performance over time and meeting anti-pollution standards**. It also gives them access to a network of manufacturer-trained fitters and a guarantee in the event of mechanical issues on parts in contact with the fuel and the exhaust system, not counting breakdowns unrelated to the use of Superethanol-E85.

¹Average prices on www.prix-carburants.gouv.fr (website in French only)

The registration document must be modified once the approved E85 conversion systems has been fitted. The approved E85 conversion systems thus acts as an incentive when selling the vehicle along with a regional tax break of up to €750 when issuing the registration document. The tax break is worth 100% in 10 regions² and 50% in two others (Centre-Val de Loire and Brittany) for all fitted vehicles. Furthermore, **two regions offer incentives to convert to Superethanol-E85: Hauts-de-France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.**

TO FIND OUT HOW TO RUN ON SUPERETHANOL-E85 [CLICK HERE](#)

The other legal way for your car to run on Superethanol-E85 is to drive a flexfuel-ready vehicle. **Jaguar Land Rover** now markets three hybrid flexfuel models (E-PACE, Discovery Sport and Range Rover Evoque). **Ford** will soon be joining in, with the announcement of **four flexfuel private cars** including two hybrids (Fiesta, Puma, Focus mHEV and Kuga PHEV) and **two flexfuel-ready LUVs** (Fiesta Van and Transit Connect), due to be launched between June and October 2021.

Superethanol-E85: a fuel that's ever more accessible available at 1 in 4 stations

By late January 2021, **2,342 service stations were selling Superethanol-E85, that's 1 in 4 stations** (26% of stations³), that's an increase of 34% in one year. Regions with the highest share of E85 pumps are Occitania (34%), Hauts-de-France (30%) and Provence-Alpes Côtes d'Azur (28%). **Two networks, Total and Intermarché, account for 50% of E85 stations** in France. Motorists can now find Superethanol-E85 more easily on the roads, including on motorways.

A cleaner, greener fuel, that's palm oil-free and made in France

Containing between 60% and 85% bioethanol, **Superethanol-E85 cuts net CO₂ emissions by an average of 50%** and particle emissions by 90%⁴ compared to fossil fuels.

Bioethanol does not use **palm oil**. In France, it is manufactured in large rural distilleries near the farms that supply the raw material, from the biomass produced **100% by French agriculture.**

FOR INTERVIEW AND REPORTING REQUESTS, PLEASE CONTACT US:

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Key figures for Superethanol-E85 in 2020

- Record consumption of 350 million litres in 2020, i.e. a **4% increase in growth over 2019** (whereas petrol and diesel consumption dropped by 14% and 16% respectively)
- A retail network growing at a cracking pace: **2,342 E85 stations** listed as of 31/01/2021 (600 more in the past year, i.e. an increase of 34%).
- **Five E85 conversion conversion systems manufacturers** have gained approval for at least one of the eight initial vehicle categories of less than 15 fiscal HP (to which four new categories have been added to include vehicles of 15HP and above): Biomotors, FlexFuel Energy Development, ARM Engineering, Borel and eFlexFuel. Over **15,000 approved E85 conversion systems** were fitted in France in 2020 (Details on www.infoe85.fr, in French only).
- With 65% to 85% bioethanol content added to petrol, **Superethanol-E85 cuts CO₂ emissions by about 50%** and particle emissions by 90% compared to fossil fuels.
- **Over 20,000 users of "Mes stations E85"** a new application specifying sale price and geo-location for stations selling Superethanol-E85. Created in July 2018, the **"Communauté Superéthanol E85-France"** Facebook account now boasts over **25,000 members.**

About the Bioethanol Collective

The Bioethanol Collective is represented by the French Inter-branch Beet and Sugar Association (AIBS) and the French Agricultural Alcohol Producers Association (SNPAA). It aims to raise awareness of the bioethanol industry among professionals and the general public. Up to 7.5% bioethanol (pure or as a derivative, with 5% pure ethanol maximum) is currently incorporated in Unleaded 95 and Unleaded 98 petrol sold in France, while up to 10% is incorporated in Unleaded 95-E10 and up to 85% in Superethanol-E85. For more information: <https://www.bioethanolcarburant.com/> (in French only).

² Superethanol-E85 is not available in Corsica

³ Stations declaring their rates on www.prix-carburants.gouv.fr (website in French only)

⁴ Czerwinski 2017