

Department of Energy

§ 490.309

chooses to rescind its election of the option provided in this section shall be required, unless otherwise exempt, to acquire alternative fueled vehicles in accordance with the vehicle acquisition schedule in section 490.302.

§ 490.308 Process for granting exemptions.

(a) To obtain an exemption from the vehicle acquisition mandate in this subpart, a covered person, or its affiliate, division, or business unit which is subject to section 490.302 of this part, shall submit a written request for exemption to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, EE-33, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585, or such other address as DOE may publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER, along with the supporting documentation required by this section.

(b) A covered person requesting an exemption must demonstrate that—

(1) Alternative fuels that meet the normal requirements and practices of the principal business of the covered person are not available from fueling sites that would permit central fueling of that person's vehicles in the area in which the vehicles are to be operated; or

(2) Alternative fueled vehicles that meet the normal requirements and practices of the principal business of the covered person are not available for purchase or lease commercially on reasonable terms and conditions in any State included in a MSA/CMSA that the vehicles are operated in.

(c) *Documentation.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (c) (2) of this section, if a covered person is seeking an exemption under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the types of documentation that are to accompany the request include, but are not limited to, maps of vehicle operation zones and maps of locations providing alternative fuel.

(2) If a covered person seeking an exemption under paragraph (b)(1) of this section operates light duty vehicles outside of the areas listed in appendix A of subpart A, and central fueling of those vehicles does not meet the normal requirements and practices of that person's business, then that covered person shall only be required to justify

in a written request why central fueling is incompatible with its business.

(3) If a covered person is seeking an exemption under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the types of documentation that are to accompany the request include, but are not limited to, alternative fueled vehicle purchase or lease requests, a listing of vehicles that meet the normal practices and requirements of the covered person and any other documentation that exhibits good faith efforts to acquire alternative fueled vehicles.

(d) Exemptions are granted for one model year only and may be renewed annually, if supporting documentation is provided.

(e) Exemptions may be granted in whole or in part. When granting an exemption in part, DOE may, depending upon the circumstances, completely relieve a covered person from complying with a portion of the vehicle acquisition requirements for a model year, or it may require a covered person to acquire all or some of the exempted vehicles in future model years.

(f) The Assistant Secretary shall provide to the covered person within 45 days after receipt of a request that complies with this section, a written determination as to whether the State's request has been granted or denied.

(g) If a covered person is denied an exemption, that covered person may file an appeal within 30 days of the date of determination, pursuant to 10 CFR part 1003, subpart C, with the Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20585. The Assistant Secretary's determination shall be stayed during the pendency of an appeal under this paragraph.

§ 490.309 Annual reporting requirements.

(a) If a person is required to comply with the vehicle acquisition schedule in section 490.302 or section 490.307, that person shall file an annual report under this section, on a form obtainable from DOE, with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, EE-33, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585, or such other address as DOE

§ 490.310

may publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER, on or before the December 31 after the close of the applicable model year.

(b) This report shall include the following information—

(1) Number of new light duty motor vehicles acquired by the covered person in the United States during the model year;

(2) Number of new light duty alternative fueled vehicles that are required to be acquired during the model year;

(3) Number of new light duty alternative fueled vehicle acquisitions in the United States during the model year;

(4) Number of alternative fueled vehicle credits applied against acquisition requirements;

(5) For each new light duty alternative fueled vehicle acquisition—

(i) Vehicle make and model;

(ii) Model year;

(iii) Vehicle Identification Number;

(iv) Dedicated or dual-fueled (including flexible fuel); and

(v) Type of alternative fuel the vehicle is capable of operating on.

(c) If credits are applied against alternative fueled vehicle acquisition requirements, then a credit activity report, as described in subpart F, must be submitted with the report under this section to DOE.

(d) Records shall be maintained and retained for a period of three years.

§ 490.310 Violations.

Violations of this subpart are subject to investigation and enforcement under subpart G of this part.

Subpart E [Reserved]

Subpart F—Alternative Fueled Vehicle Credit Program

§ 490.500 Purpose and Scope.

This subpart implements the statutory requirements of section 508 of the Act, which provides for the allocation of credits to fleets or covered persons who acquire alternative fueled vehicles in excess of the number they are required or obtain alternative fueled vehicles before the model year when they are first required to do so under this part.

§ 490.501 Applicability.

This subpart applies to all fleets and covered persons who are required to acquire alternative fueled vehicles by this part.

§ 490.502 Creditable actions.

A fleet or covered person becomes entitled to alternative fueled vehicle credits by—

(a) Acquiring alternative fueled vehicles, including those in excluded categories under section 490.3 of this part and those exceeding 8,500 gross vehicle weight rating, in excess of the number of alternative fueled vehicles that fleet or covered person is required to acquire in a model year when acquisition requirements apply; or

(b) Acquiring alternative fueled vehicles, including those in excluded categories under section 490.3 of this part and those exceeding 8,500 gross vehicle weight rating, in model years before the model year when that fleet or covered person is first required to acquire alternative fueled vehicles.

(c) For purposes of this subpart, a fleet or covered person that acquired a motor vehicle on or after October 24, 1992, and converted it to an alternative fueled vehicle before April 15, 1996, shall be entitled to a credit for that vehicle notwithstanding the time limit on conversions established by sections 490.202(a)(3) and 490.305(a)(3) of this part.

§ 490.503 Credit allocation.

(a) Based on annual credit activity report information, as described in section 490.507 of this part, DOE shall allocate one credit for each alternative fueled vehicle a fleet or covered person acquires that exceeds the number of alternative fueled vehicles that fleet or person is required to acquire in a model year when acquisition requirements apply.

(b) If an alternative fueled vehicle is acquired by a fleet or covered person in a model year before the first model year that fleet or person is required to acquire alternative fueled vehicles by this part, as reported in the annual credit activity report, DOE shall allocate one credit per alternative fueled vehicle for each year the alternative fueled vehicle is acquired before the