merCruiser
STERN DRIVES & INBOARDS

service bulletin

TO: SERVICE MANAGER ☐ TECHNICIANS ☐
PARTS MANAGER ☐

No. 89-28

Fuel Recommendations for 1990 MCM/MIE (Gasoline) Models (Except Performance Products Models)

Fuel Requirements

IMPORTANT: Use of improper gasoline can damage your engine seriously. Engine damage resulting from use of improper gasoline is considered misuse of engine, and damage caused thereby will not be covered under the limited warranty.

The use of any good grade unleaded regular or premium gasolines with a minimum posted octane rating [(A.K.I.) Anti-Knock Index] of 87, are satisfactory for use in your engine. In areas where unleaded regular or premium gasolines are not available, a good grade **leaded** regular with a minimum posted octane rating (A.K.I.) of 89 may be used. However, gasolines containing alcohol, either methyl alcohol (methanol) or ethyl alcohol (ethanol) may cause increased:

- Corrosion of metal parts.
- Deterioration of elastomer and plastic parts.
- Fuel permeation through flexible fuel lines.
- Wear and damage of internal engine parts.
- Starting and operating difficulties.

Some of these adverse effects are due to the tendency of gasolines containing alcohol to absorb moisture from the air, resulting in a phase of water and alcohol separating from the gasoline in the fuel tank.

The adverse effects of alcohol are more severe with methyl alcohol (methanol) and are worse with increasing alcohol content.

⚠ WARNING

FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD: Fuel leakage from any part of fuel system can be a fire and explosion hazard which can cause serious bodily injury or death. Careful periodic inspection of entire fuel system is mandatory, particularly after storage. All fuel components including fuel tanks, whether plastic, metal or fiberglass, fuel line, primer bulbs, fittings, fuel filters and carburetors should be inspected for leakage, softening, hardening, swelling or corrosion. Any sign of leakage or deterioration requires replacement before further engine operation.

Because of possible adverse effects of alcohol in gasoline, it is recommended that only alcohol-free gasoline be used where possible. If only fuel containing alcohol is available, or if the presence of alcohol is unknown, increased inspection frequency for leaks and abnormalities is required.

IMPORTANT: When operating a MerCruiser engine on gasoline containing alcohol, storage of gasoline in the fuel tank for long periods should be avoided. Long periods of storage, common to boats, create unique problems. In cars, alcohol-blend fuels normally are consumed before they can absorb enough moisture to cause trouble, but boats often sit idle long enough for phase separation to take place. In addition, internal corrosion may take place during storage if alcohol has washed protective oil films from internal components.

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