

Alternate Fuel Vehicle Recommendations - New and Used Vehicles

The University of Central Florida is now required to meet federal regulations concerning alternate fuel vehicle purchases. This is a complex requirement but we have determined that there is one relatively simple way to meet the requirement with very little if any additional cost or inconvenience to us. The vehicle type we are recommending is known as a flex fuel vehicle, or a vehicle that is capable of burning ethanol or regular unleaded gasoline. There are no known ethanol fuel stations in the central Florida region so we are allowed to burn regular unleaded fuel. We contacted several local dealers and these vehicles are identical to any "normal" vehicle with the exception of an engine modification that allows it to burn ethanol in addition to unleaded gas. Our dealers say that a vehicle operator would not experience any difference whatsoever in the operation of one of these flex fuel vehicles. They get the same mileage on regular unleaded as the non-flex vehicles, according to the dealer.

Pricing is nearly the same for a new state contract vehicle and in one case we found that a flex fuel Ford Taurus on state contract was \$88.00 less than the normal comparable model. Our state contract has other models available as well such as the Ford Explorer, Ford Sport Trac, and a Chevrolet ½ ton pickup truck. We are researching other sources of supply for other types of vehicles that are typically purchased at UCF.

The State of Florida contract is one source of supply and can be accessed at http://www.myflorida.com/st_contracts/070001051/. The flex fuel vehicles can be found under the PRICE SHEET link, and then under the heading "Alternative Fuel Vehicles" at the bottom of that page. The purchase of used vehicles must also meet this requirement as well as any leased vehicle that is leased for more than four months. We will continue to update information on our web page as it becomes available.

We are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 for any single violation and up to \$50,000 for repeated violations. Exemptions are extremely difficult to get approved and would be very time consuming, and unlikely to meet the normal timely needs of our departments. We feel that we have a legitimate means to comply with these requirements and still provide departments with their needs. Please direct any questions you may have to Dorothy Straight at (407) 823-2661 or dstraight@mail.ucf.edu.