

The comptroller's Field Enforcement Division also protects the interests of Maryland motorists by establishing quality standards for all motor fuel sold and used in Maryland and ensuring that consumers get what they

pay for. In fiscal year 2000, the comptroller's motor fuel testing laboratory tested samples representing almost 822 million gallons of gasoline and 575 million gallons of other petroleum products for octane levels, contaminants, and other factors. The minuscule failure rate – well under a tenth of a percent – attests to the success of the program.

Enforcement agents act quickly on consumer complaints, testing fuel and issuing stop sale orders when the fuel fails quality tests. Dealers who knowingly mislabel fuel or mingle grades of gasoline are charged with intent to fraud, a violation that carries a fine and/or imprisonment.

*“I want these  
dangerous  
criminals to know  
they can't do  
business in  
Maryland without  
facing the  
consequences.”*

**Comptroller Schaefer**