

Who is CRC?

CRC is a non-profit organization. The primary objective of CRC is to define the performance characteristics of transportation fluids in vehicle hardware. Many CRC projects focus on the interactions between fuel composition and engine performance. Results from CRC research projects are data and analysis reports made available to the public. The motivation for CRC research simply is to provide the best technical foundation for data-driven decisions by others. CRC does not set standards, recommend any particular regulatory approach, or take action to promote such actions by others through lobbying or other efforts.

Results from CRC research have been used for nearly 100 years by standard-setting organizations such as ASTM International to develop and improve specifications for safe and reliable consumer products. Throughout its history, CRC has also worked with various branches of the U.S. military and their suppliers to define performance of fuels and other fluids in military equipment resulting in improved military product specifications. In recent decades, CRC has conducted numerous in-depth studies of the emissions performance of various fuels in a variety of vehicles and engines. These data have been used by regulatory bodies such as the U.S. EPA to inform development of government regulations.

The pattern for conducting CRC research studies was set circa 1919 when the Cooperative Fuel Research (CFR) Committee began to study the relationships between fuel composition and engine knock performance. Members of this committee included experts from the automotive industry, the energy industry, government agencies, and academia. This committee developed the CFR engine adopted and in use today by ASTM International as the standard tool used to measure octane-quality of fuels.

This same pattern of committee-managed, consensus-driven research remains in force today and is the hallmark of CRC data quality. CRC research committees are comprised of the world's leading experts representing industries that are the most knowledgeable about the products studied along with other stakeholders who wish to provide important input. For each new project, CRC committees design the research approach to follow, select the best qualified organization to conduct the work, monitor progress throughout the study, and review and approve all data and the final report. An independent research institution or academic facility is often selected by the committee to carry out CRC-sponsored research. This inclusive and open process yields balanced results of the highest quality and this process has stood the test of time throughout the modern era of transportation technology development.

As a non-profit organization, CRC does not have any economic interest in developing new hardware or fuels. CRC refrains from economic studies and abides by a strict anti-trust policy to protect all its participants.