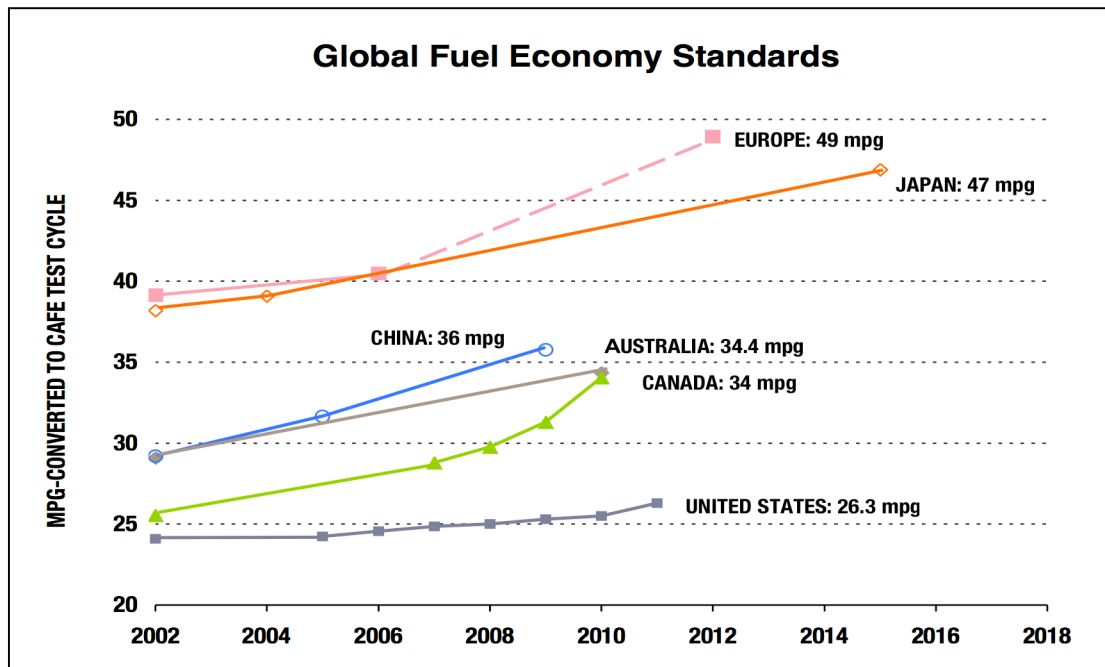


Global Benchmarking Study Finds U.S. Last Among Major Countries in Passenger Vehicle Fuel Economy Standards

A major new study of passenger vehicle fuel economy standards worldwide finds that the United States lags behind most other major industrialized countries in the stringency of its fuel economy standards. The report,¹ by the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), is a technical comparison² of vehicle standards in major countries, states and regions.

Europe and Japan are closely tied in the “race to the top” for the world’s most efficient new car fleet. China has only recently begun to regulate fuel economy, and yet when fully phased-in in 2009, China’s regulations will be the world’s third-strongest. Australia and Canada’s standards will increase their fuel economy by 15% and 33%, respectively. Also considered in the report is South Korea, which will achieve 30.6 mpg in 2012.

The United States’ standards show a slight increase with the 2004 revision of CAFE light truck rules, yet this global benchmarking shows that U.S. standards will continue to be the least competitive among industrialized countries. Raising combined fuel economy standards to 35 mpg in 2020 would bring the U.S. to where China will be in 2008.



¹ *Passenger Vehicle Greenhouse Gas and Fuel Economy Standards: A Global Update*, by Feng An, Deborah Gordon, and the ICCT, available on the web at: www.theicct.org

² Some countries’ standards are fuel economy based, while others’ (Europe, Canada) are greenhouse gas-based. Also, different countries use different “test cycles.” For these reasons, the report used detailed modeling and calculations to convert all standards to CAFE-equivalent fuel economy measures, not simple unit conversions.