



FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

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Containers for Flammable and Combustible Liquid Use

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE, Fire Marshal Division, 7150 Harris Drive, Lansing, MI 48913

Containers are designated as any vessel of 60 U.S. gallons or less capacity. Only approved (acceptable to the State Fire Marshal) containers shall be used for the transportation and storage of flammable and combustible liquids.

Approved Containers

Metal containers meeting the requirements of, and containing products authorized by, Title 49 of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Regulations are acceptable. Metal containers meeting the requirements of, and containing products authorized by NFPA 386, Standard for Portable Shipping Tanks for Flammable & Combustible Liquids are acceptable to the state Fire Marshal.

Polyethylene containers meeting the requirements of, and containing liquids authorized by, DOT Specification 34, and polyethylene drums authorized by DOT Exemption Procedures are acceptable.

Plastic containers, meeting the requirements of ANSI/ASTM D 3435-80, ASTM F 852-86, ASTM F 976-86, and ANSI/UL 1313-83 and approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, used for petroleum products within the scope of the specifications are acceptable.

The maximum allowable size of containers shall be according to the table below:

INSERT TABLE

Exceptions

The above table does not apply to medicines, beverages, foodstuffs, cosmetics, and other consumer products for retail sales according to commonly accepted practices. Also, it does not apply to Class IA and Class IB liquids stored in glass containers of not more than one gallon capacity, when required for liquid purity.

The requirements for proper containers do not apply to: beverages in a container not exceeding one gallon capacity; consumer products containing not more than 50% by volume of water miscible (uniform blend) flammable; liquids where the remainder of the solution is not; or distilled spirits and wines in wooden barrels or casks.

Container Markings

Containers must be marked according to Act 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, commonly known as the Red Can Act. This act requires that the container be vermilion bright red and has the word "Gasoline," "Benzene," or "Naphtha" lettered on it when it is used to carry these liquids. Containers holding other liquids shall be of a different color and lettered with the name of the liquid contained therein.

Dwellings and Residential Buildings Containing Not More Than Three Dwelling Units

Class I and Class II liquids (flash point below 140 degrees F) shall not be stored inside a dwelling or residential building. Total individual or combined storage of more than 25 gallons of Class I and Class II liquids is not permitted in an attached or detached structure. Storage of more than 60 gallons of Class III liquid (flash point 140 degrees F to below 200 degrees F) is not allowed. Other storage requirements for containers may be found in Part 2, Chapter 4 of the 1992 Storage & Handling of Flammable & Combustible Liquids rules.

Transporting Containers

A container which holds more than 6 gallons of Class I or Class II liquid shall not be transported in a passenger vehicle. Containers shall be removed from the interior of a passenger car and from the back or enclosed portion of any other vehicle during filling.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Fire Marshal Division at (517) 322-1924.

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