# Dispensing Propane Safely



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# Introduction to Dispensing Propane Safely

# Introduction

Propane dispensing stations offer a convenient fueling source for residential, recreational, and commercial users of propane, and can be found at many locations, including hardware stores, professional landscape companies, campgrounds, rental equipment companies, and gas stations.

Motorhomes, campers, autogas vehicles, lawn mowers, barbecue grills, and forklifts are just a few of the vehicles and equipment served by propane dispensing stations.

In order to ensure your safety and the safety of your customers when dispensing propane, you should know about the fuel, equipment, regulations, and processes that are involved in filling various types of propane containers. This manual will discuss general information about dispensing propane safely, and also go into detail about the specific processes involved in filling various types of propane containers and vehicles.

Everyone who dispenses propane will need to review the first three modules in addition to the modules specific to their filling applications. These modules will give you basic information on dispensing equipment and the safe handling and transfer of propane. The lone exception is if you only dispense propane autogas. Then, you will need to review the first two modules in addition to the Dispensing Propane Autogas module.





If you fill any type of propane cylinder, such as a mower, forklift, or small cylinder, you will need to review the first four modules in addition to the modules specific to your filling applications. Module 4 contains important information on cylinder components and markings, pre-fill inspection, purging, and the loading and transporting of cylinders.

Your training will not be complete unless you review the appropriate modules. Refer to the table in appendix A1 for further guidance of which modules should be taken as a prerequisite to others.

### **Propane Dispensers**

Propane dispenser operators play a critical role in safely and efficiently dispensing propane into containers and vehicles.

Responsibilities include:

- Understanding the regulations, routine inspections, and operation of the dispensing equipment.
- Inspecting containers and vehicles to ensure that they are compliant and safe for filling.
- Filling containers to their proper levels and preventing them from being overfilled.
- Maintaining the security of the propane dispenser and transfer area to control ignition sources and prevent tampering or release of propane.
- Shutting down and securing the dispenser in the event of an emergency.

Informing customers about how to safely handle and transport propane containers is important. Safety tips for your customers may include:

- Always transport and store a cylinder in a secure and upright position so it will not fall, shift, or roll.
- Never keep a filled cylinder inside a hot vehicle.
- Always proceed directly to your destination and immediately remove the cylinder from your vehicle.

Your company may choose to distribute safety information to customers when propane containers are filled. One resource to consider, should your company provide safety information, is the pamphlet, "Important Propane Safety Information for Users of Small Cylinders."

Visit propanecouncil.org to download the pamphlet or to order copies.







# Properties and Characteristics of Propane

## Introduction

The safe dispensing of propane involves knowing its properties and characteristics and being aware of safety procedures. A Safety Data Sheet, or SDS, is available from propane suppliers or distributors and must be available and accessible to all employees at the workplace. The SDS provides important information on propane, including physical properties, health effects, first aid, safety precautions, and personal protective equipment.

Propane is stored as both a liquid and a vapor.
As propane liquid turns to vapor, it expands
270 times. Because of the large expansion rate,
a liquid propane leak can be more hazardous than
a propane vapor leak.

Propane containers are usually filled to only 80% of their capacity to allow room for liquid propane to expand with an increase in temperature.



Propane is non-toxic, but its vapor can be dangerous to inhale because it can displace oxygen. Since propane vapor is heavier than air, propane released in a confined space may settle in low-lying areas. However, if there is sufficient air movement, especially outdoors, the vapor will quickly dissipate in the air.

Propane liquid becomes very cold when released to the atmosphere. This means if it comes in contact with your skin, it can cause frostbite or freeze burns. For this reason, appropriate gloves or other personal protective equipment resistant to propane should always be worn when filling containers. Your employer may require other safety equipment, depending on your specific responsibilities, so be sure to check with your supervisor.

Propane is a fuel; it will ignite and burn under the right conditions. Three ingredients are needed to start and sustain combustion: propane, oxygen, and an ignition source. In order to minimize possible ignition sources that could lead to combustion, customers should be restricted from the immediate area around the liquid propane transfer areas.

### **Detecting Propane**

A strong, unpleasant-smelling chemical is added to propane so you can detect it. The chemical added to propane makes it smell like rotten eggs, a skunk's spray, or a dead animal. You should respond immediately to even a faint odor of propane.

If for any reason you cannot recognize the smell of propane, notify your supervisor immediately. Both you and your customers' safety could depend on your ability to smell propane in the event of a leak.



## **What You Should Know Before Dispensing Propane**

### Sources of Ignition

You should be aware of any potential ignition sources any time you are handling or transferring propane. Some examples include: a person smoking, open flames, internal combustion engines, and static electricity. Make sure you eliminate any potential ignition sources before handling or filling propane cylinders and tanks.

In the right conditions, a source of ignition such as a static discharge or spark may cause the ignition of some fuels, including gasoline and propane.

For more information on controlling static electricity, visit propanecouncil.org.

### **Uncontrolled Propane Leaks and Fires**

An uncontrolled release of propane can be extremely dangerous and potentially cause a fire or an explosion. If your facility is equipped with an emergency shutdown device, make sure you are aware of its location. In the event of a propane emergency, you should always place personal and customer safety first.

Follow these steps:

### 1. Shut down the dispenser if safe to do so.

### 2. Evacuate the area immediately.

Everyone in the building, or area affected by the emergency, should evacuate immediately to a safe distance. Do not re-enter the area.

### 3. Call for help.

After you are at a safe distance from the affected area, call 911 or your local fire department.

### When Help Arrives

Emergency responders, including firefighters, HAZMAT crews, and emergency medical technicians, are the only personnel qualified to provide leadership in emergencies involving propane.

Your company may have specific instructions for you to follow in both routine and emergency situations, so you should always consult your supervisor for more information.





# Dispensing Station Equipment

# Introduction

In order to dispense propane safely, you should be familiar with the equipment you are working with and how to use it. The following section discusses equipment that is common to most dispensing stations. This section does not discuss autogas dispensers. Please review module 9 for more information on autogas dispensing station equipment.

### **Dispenser Components**

There are two common types of propane dispensing station setups: vertical tank dispensers and horizontal tank dispensers. Dispensing equipment often varies from facility to facility.

Your system may or may not have all of the following components:

- Valves that control the flow of propane through the piping system.
- A metering system that measures how much propane is being filled into containers.
- An emergency break-away device designed to provide protection in case of a vehicle pull-away, by stopping the flow of propane if a person drives away with the hose attached.





### **Shutdown Systems**

Most dispensers will have a shutdown system to stop the flow of propane in an emergency. Know where the system is located and know how to operate it.

### **Preparing the Dispenser**

- The first step in preparing the dispenser for operation is to unlock the cabinet and verify that the hose end valves are closed.
- 2. SLOWLY open the liquid outlet valve and the first downstream manual valve.
  - If you hear a snapping noise, this means the valves have been opened too quickly and the excess flow valve may have closed.
  - If the excess flow valve closes or "slugs," proceed as follows:
    - » Close the downstream manual valve.
    - » Wait patiently for the excess flow valve to open; you may hear it click.
    - » Open the valve SLOWLY to avoid a sudden increase in flow.
- 3. Inspect all valves, piping, transfer hose, and fittings for proper operation.
- 4. Inspect the threads of all connection adapters, especially brass, for excess wear. Make sure the gaskets and "O" rings, if equipped, are in place and in good working condition.

Inspect for leaks. If you suspect a leak, shut down the system, immediately leave the area, and contact your supervisor.







# **Dispenser Shutdown**

When the dispenser is not in use or when a qualified operator is not present, the dispenser should be shut down and secured.

To shut down the dispenser:

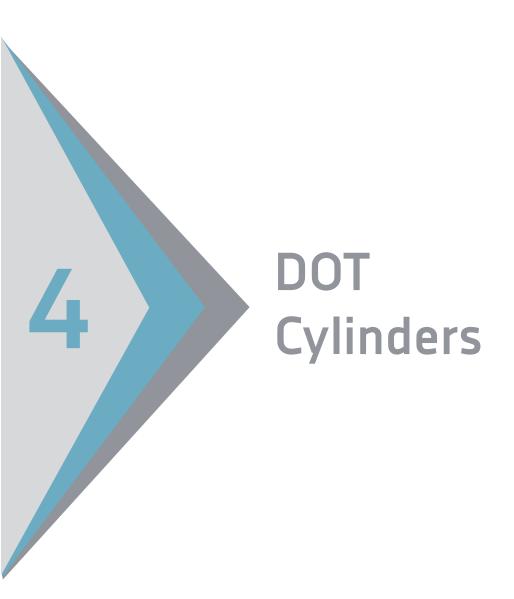
- Close all valves at the storage tank.
- If so equipped, place the dust cap or plug in the hose end valve or filling adapter.
- Store the filler hose in the proper location.
- Close and lock the cabinet.

Becoming familiar with the dispensing equipment and how it works will help you to fill containers safely and protect your customers, your workplace, and yourself.









# Introduction

An important part of a dispenser operator's job is being able to recognize various types of propane cylinders and understand their markings. This will help ensure that the cylinder is suitable for filling.

Most propane cylinders in service today are manufactured according to Department of Transporation (DOT) specifications and are commonly referred to as "DOT cylinders."

Small, portable cylinders are filled at various locations and are used with hand torches, plumbers' pots, gas lanterns, camp stoves, barbecue grills, and on many recreational vehicles.

Larger cylinders are typically filled at a facility and delivered to industrial, commercial, or residential customers.

### **Common Elements of DOT Cylinders**

Cylinder bodies are typically made from either aluminum or steel.

Every aluminum or steel cylinder has a foot ring. It is used to protect the bottom of the cylinder body from damage and also functions as a support stand or base.





Openings for valves and fittings are located in the service end of the cylinder. The number of openings depends on how the cylinder will be used.

Portable and exchange cylinders usually have one combination service valve and pressure-relief valve screwed into the top of the cylinder.

Vertical cylinders with 4 to 40 lb propane capacity must be fitted with an overfilling prevention device, or OPD.

OPD cylinder valves are distinctively marked and equipped with a unique handwheel in the shape of a modified triangle.

OPDs should not be treated as the primary means of preventing overfilling. It is still the dispenser operator's responsibility to close the hose end valve when the proper filling level has been reached.

Some existing cylinders are not required to be fitted with an OPD.

### These include:

- Cylinders used in industrial truck service or mower applications
- Cylinders manufactured prior to 1998 and designed for use in the horizontal position
- Cylinders used for industrial welding and cutting gases









To protect the cylinder valves, a wide metal band called a "collar" is welded to the cylinder body.

Collars often incorporate handles for lifting and moving. Cylinder valves should never be used to lift or move a cylinder.





### **Cylinder Markings**

Markings are required by DOT and are the ID card for the cylinder. Markings must be legible and clearly and permanently marked on the collar or cylinder body.

The markings include the cylinder specification design code, service pressure, cylinder tare weight, water capacity in pounds, manufacturer name, and test or requalification date.





The cylinder must be identified as a propane cylinder before filling it. Refer to appendix 4 for additional information on the entire cylinder marking requirements, as well as a table listing all the specification design codes for propane cylinders.

Cylinder capacity is marked by the pounds of water it can hold.

The tare weight is the weight of the cylinder when empty and includes the weight of the cylinder valves, but not the filling hose and nozzle.

Cylinders with the same water capacity can have different tare weights, so each cylinder should be treated individually.

All refillable cylinders must be requalified at regular intervals. Requalification is not typically handled at dispenser locations, and should be performed only by trained individuals.

When reading the original date or requalification markings:

- A date without a letter indicates the next requalification must be within 12 years.
- The letter "S" following the date indicates the cylinder must be requalified within seven years of the marked date.
- The letter "E" following the date indicates that requalification is required again within five years of the marked date.
- The most recent requalification date must be marked on the cylinder.



Cylinders that are out of qualification must NOT be refilled; rather, they should be marked and set aside in a designated safe area.

Knowing about cylinder construction, components, and markings will assist you in safely refilling your customers' cylinders.

### **Pre-Fill Visual Inspection**

DOT regulations require a visual check before a small cylinder can be filled or refilled to verify that it is fit for continued service. Prior to inspecting a cylinder, remove any plastic or paper sleeve so you are able to spot any problems easily. After inspection, if any of the following are found, the cylinder must not be refilled and should be marked and set aside in a designated safe area.

Problems that prevent refilling a cylinder include:

- Cracks or leaks
- Bulging, serious denting, or gouging
- Defective valves
- Defective inner face seal of an OPD valve
- Defective or leaking pressure-relief device
- Damage to the cylinder valve, valve protection, and cylinder foot rings
- Evidence of physical abuse, fire or heat damage, or excessive rusting or corrosion
- Out-of-date requalification





Steel cylinders subjected to fire must be requalified, reconditioned, or repaired by the original manufacturer or a DOT-authorized repair facility before being placed back in service. Aluminum cylinders subjected to fire must be removed from service permanently.

Cylinders set aside because of defects identified must not be refilled unless the cylinder has been repaired properly or replaced by a trained and qualified service technician. Contact your propane supplier for assistance.

If you encounter a cylinder with XXXs over the DOT specification number or marked "CONDEMNED" on the shoulder, collar, or head, do not refill. Instead, mark and set aside in a designated safe area.





Valves and accessories should also be inspected prior to filling. They should be checked regularly for signs of aging and wear.

Never look directly into a relief valve opening to inspect it. Instead, use a mirror to safely inspect the relief valve.

Valve accessories may get broken or lost, allowing dirt or moisture to enter the valve. Inspect and replace any faulty or missing dust caps.

Valves may also become damaged through improper cylinder maintenance. For example, service personnel may fail to use proper brushes around cylinder openings when painting them. As a result, gauge faces, "weep" holes in filler valves, and discharge openings of relief valves may be blocked with paint.

If you find a blue-green stain on the brass portion of the cylinder valve, the cylinder may have come in contact with anhydrous ammonia, which is often used to manufacture illegal drugs. If you encounter this situation, set the cylinder aside in a designated safe area and contact the local fire or police department.





### **Purging**

In order for equipment to operate properly and to keep customers safe, both new cylinders that have not been vacuum-purged by the manufacturer and those that have been opened to the atmosphere must be purged of air or moisture before filling.

If air or moisture enters a propane cylinder, it can slow down the filling operation, create unusually high service pressures, cause regulator freeze-up, or cause fading of the odorant in the cylinder.

Contact your propane supplier to make sure you have the appropriate equipment needed and that all purging is performed in a safe location.

## **Steps for Purging Cylinders with Propane Vapor**

When purging cylinders with propane vapor, it's important to note that the steps involved may vary depending on your company policy and the type of equipment installed at the facility. Always consult your supervisor for more information.

Using propane vapor to force the air out of a cylinder is an effective purging method that is often used at refilling stations. Cylinders should always be purged in an approved area where there are no ignition sources.

Follow these steps to purge cylinders:

- 1. Connect the vapor hose to the cylinder. Ensure that you have the correct fittings installed when connecting the vapor hose to the cylinder service valve. If the service valve on the cylinder does not have a female POL opening, attach a cylinder service valve adapter to the POL adapter that is installed in the vapor line hose end valve. Securely tighten the vapor hose assembly to the cylinder service valve.
- 2. Pressurize the cylinder with propane vapor to 15 psig. With the service valve closed on the cylinder being purged, open the service valve on the purging cylinder. Gradually position the ball valve on the vapor hose to allow propane vapor to vent into the cylinder being purged. If no leakage is detected, open the service valve on the cylinder being purged. Observe the gauge on the purging manifold until the pressure reaches 15 psig.





- 3. Bleed off the pressure in the cylinder. Gradually position the ball valve on the vapor hose to vent a small volume of propane vapor and air until the pressure gauge reaches 0 psig. During this bleed-off process, be very cautious as a small amount of propane vapor and air will be released. To prevent ignition, venting should be done at least 25 feet from any open flame, smoking area, portable electrical tools, and extension lights; and at least 35 feet from any metal cutting, grinding, oxygen fuel gas cutting, brazing, soldering, or welding.
- 4. Repeat the purging process. To be sure that roughly 97% of the air has been purged from the cylinder, continue to pressurize and bleed off the pressure in the cylinder at least four more times. Leave the vapor return hose connected until the final purging has been completed, then re-pressurize the cylinder to 15 psig. Close the service valve on both the purging cylinder and the cylinder being purged and check the cylinder for leakage.

Never purge with liquid propane. This may cause the liquid to flash into vapor, chilling the cylinder and condensing any moisture vapor on the walls. In addition, only a small percentage of the air will be removed.

### **Cylinder Labeling**

DOT and OSHA require specific labeling for all cylinders. Cylinders used to transport propane must be clearly and durably marked with the proper shipping name and hazard class. Cylinders used in industrial applications must have additional warning information.



In addition, a consumer information or warning label must be on all portable refillable cylinders of 100 lb propane capacity or less.

Be sure to apply an appropriate warning label if the original manufacturer's label is not present or clearly legible.

### **Cylinder Loading and Transporting**

Prior to returning the cylinder to the customer, be sure the cylinder valves and fittings are protected against damage while being transported. Cylinders must also be fastened securely in a position to minimize the possibility of movement, tipping, or physical damage while in transit.

It is important to recognize the difference between horizontal and vertical cylinders. They are typically marked to indicate which position they are to be stored and used in. In the event that the relief valve needs to vent while having liquid in the valve, and the cylinder is not positioned properly, the situation can become hazardous.

Closed-bodied vehicles, such as passenger cars and vans, are limited to a maximum of 90 lb propane capacity with no single container having a capacity of more than 45 lb. Verify with state and local codes, as they may be different. In addition, check with your supervisor to determine if it is your company's practice to distribute safety information to customers when cylinders are filled.







Conducting a cylinder pre-fill inspection, purging a cylinder, labeling a cylinder, and preparing a cylinder for transportation enable you to safely serve both your customers and your company.



# Filling Small Cylinders

## Introduction

Before you begin the process of filling small cylinders, make sure that the dispenser is properly prepared and that the cylinder is safe to fill.

This module gives you the basic information needed to fill small propane cylinders. However, before you begin the filling process, you need to make sure that you review the first four modules of this program.

These four modules will provide you a better understanding of:

- · How to safely handle and transfer liquid propane
- Information about dispensing equipment
- Various cylinder components
- Required cylinder markings
- Pre-fill visual inspection
- · Requalification requirements
- Purging cylinders
- · Labeling, loading, and transporting cylinders

You have not completed the necessary training to fill small propane cylinders unless you have completed modules 1 through 4 first.

### **Filling Cylinders**

Before filling a cylinder, make sure you are aware of the following information regarding safety and handling procedures, and be sure to check with your supervisor for any exceptions.

- Know your facility's fire prevention and emergency evacuation plans, including
  where and how to operate emergency shutdown and pump controls. Please note
  that there are different types of emergency shutdown systems. Be sure you know
  how to operate the emergency shutdown system at your facility.
- Locate the nearest fire extinguishers and make sure they are in proper working
  condition. Know how to use the fire extinguishers according to your company
  policies. Only use fire extinguishers to create an escape route not to fight a propane
  fire. The only safe way to extinguish a propane fire is to stop the flow of propane.
- Before operating a filling station, ensure there are no ignition sources within 25 feet of the points of transfer, or metal-working operations — including grinding, oxygen-fuel qas cutting, brazing, soldering, or welding — within 35 feet.

### **Pre-Filling Procedures**

Before starting the cylinder filling operation, follow these steps to ensure the safety of you, your customers, and fellow employees:

- Do not allow unauthorized people in the filling area.
- Open the secured filling area and inspect the cylinder filling station equipment.
- Remove the hose from its secure storage location.
  - » If the location isn't weather-protected, remove the dust cap or plug from the hose filling adapter.
- Open the appropriate liquid outlet and bypass return valves on the storage tank.
- Verify the cylinder you are preparing to fill is a propane cylinder by reviewing the cylinder design code specification markings on the cylinder.
- Verify the cylinder is not out of date by checking the date code on the cylinder.
- Inspect the cylinder to be sure it's not damaged or leaking and is safe to fill.
  - If the cylinder is new and has not been vacuum-purged or is a cylinder that has been open to the atmosphere, it will need to be purged properly before filling.
  - » If you find any defects that would prevent you from filling a cylinder, mark the cylinder and set aside in a designated safe area. Contact your propane supplier for assistance.

Please remember that a trained operator must be present during the entire filling procedure. Always put on appropriate personal protective equipment before filling cylinders.









### Filling Portable Cylinders by Weight

When filling portable cylinders by weight, it's important to note that the steps involved may vary depending on the type of equipment installed at the facility.

The OPD should never be used for determining if a cylinder is full. It will not always stop the flow of propane into the cylinder at the proper fill amount.

Always consult your supervisor or propane supplier for more information.

Before beginning the filling process, make sure the platform scale is clear of all debris and obstructions. In addition, platform scales require periodic maintenance and should be checked for accuracy.

To fill cylinders by weight:

Make sure all cylinder valves are closed.

Follow these steps to determine the total filled weight of a cylinder:

- Check the water capacity and tare weight stamped on the cylinder or its protective collar.
- Determine propane capacity by using the following formula:

Propane Capacity (lb) = water capacity (lb) X .42

- Add the tare weight and propane capacity together to determine the total filled weight of the cylinder.
- Next, add the hose and fitting weight to the total filled weight of the cylinder. This is the scale set point. Set the platform scale to the set point. Make sure the scale is level and no obstructions interfere with proper operation. Always be present and pay close attention during the entire filling operation.
- Place the cylinder on the scale.
- Select the proper hose end adapter to fit the cylinder valve.
- Remove the protective cap or plug from the valve.
- Connect to the cylinder.



- Start the pump.
  - » If through a filler valve, slowly open the hose end valve.
  - » If through a service valve, open the hose end valve, then slowly open the cylinder service valve.
- When target weight is reached, close the hose end valve.
- Shut off the pump.
- Make sure the service valve is closed.
- Loosen the connection and wait for any trapped liquid to bleed off.
- When trapped liquid is vented, disconnect the hose end fitting.
- Verify the filled weight, as required by regulations.
- Use an approved method, such as a non-corrosive leak detector solution, to check for leaks.
- Reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs.
  - » If the cylinder has a filler valve, reinstall the cap.
  - » If the cylinder has a POL service valve, reinstall the valve plug.
  - » Replace any caps and plugs that are missing.
- Apply any required DOT and/or OSHA labels and a cylinder warning label if the manufacturer's label is not legible or you removed a paper or plastic sleeve.









## Filling Portable Cylinders by Volume

Before filling cylinders by volume, open and close the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge to be sure vapor vents. If no vapor escapes, the valve may be blocked and must be reopened before the gauge will operate properly. Do not attempt to fill a cylinder by volume if the fixed maximum liquid level gauge is damaged or inoperable.

The OPD should never be used for determining if a cylinder is full. It will not always stop the flow of propane into the cylinder at the proper fill amount.

To fill cylinders by volume:

- Make sure all cylinder valves are closed.
- Select the proper hose end adapter to fit the filler valve or service valve.
- Remove the protective cap or plug from the valve.
- Connect the cylinder.
- Open the vent valve on the
- fixed maximum liquid level gauge.
   If a white mist appears when
   the gauge is opened, stop!
   The cylinder is already full.
- Start the pump.
  - » If through a filler valve, slowly open the hose end valve.
  - » If through a service valve, open the hose end valve and then slowly open the cylinder service valve.





- When a white mist begins to escape from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, immediately close the hose end valve.
- Close the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge.
  - » Failure to shut off the propane promptly will result in an overfilled cylinder. Overfilling a cylinder can create a hazardous condition.
- Shut off the pump.
- Make sure the cylinder service valve is closed.
- Loosen the connection and wait for any trapped liquid to bleed off.
- When trapped liquid has vented, disconnect the hose end fitting.
- Use an approved method, such as a non-corrosive leak detector solution to check for leaks.
- Reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs.
  - » If the cylinder has a filler valve, reinstall the cap.
  - » If the cylinder has a POL service valve, reinstall the valve plug.
- Replace any caps and plugs that are missing.
- Apply any required DOT and/or OSHA labels and a cylinder warning label if the manufacturer's label is not legible or you removed a paper or plastic sleeve.







# **Post-Filling Procedures**

After the cylinder filling operation has been completed or any time the filling station is unattended:

- Close the valves at the storage tank.
- Store the hose on a rack inside a
  fence-protected area, inside the
  dispenser cabinet, or secured to a
  supporting structure inside the
  filling room. If the location isn't
  weather-protected, install a dust
  cap or plug into the hose filling
  adapter. Secure the installation
  against tampering or unauthorized use.



Prior to returning the cylinder to the customer, be sure it is properly prepared for transportation. Refer to module 4 for additional loading and transportation requirements.



Refueling,
Maintaining, and
Troubleshooting
Forklift Cylinders

# Introduction

Propane-fueled forklifts offer numerous advantages over other types of industrial trucks, including greater safety through the use of a closed fuel system with fewer emissions, and healthier working conditions. They also offer less wear and tear on carburetors and other engine components.

This module gives you the basic information needed to fill, maintain, and troubleshoot forklift cylinders. However, before you begin the filling process, you need to make sure that you review the first four modules of this program.

These four modules will provide you a better understanding of:

- · How to safely handle and transfer liquid propane
- Information about dispensing equipment
- · Various cylinder components
- Required cylinder markings
- · Pre-fill visual inspection
- Requalification requirements
- Purging cylinders
- · Labeling, loading, and transporting cylinders

You have not completed the necessary training to fill, maintain, or troubleshoot forklift cylinders unless you have completed modules 1 through 4 first.

#### **Forklift Cylinder Construction**

Forklift cylinders are refueled by refilling from a dispensing tank on site or by exchanging an empty cylinder for a full one. Regardless of the method, before you refuel forklift cylinders, you should understand their construction and how they work.





#### **Properties of Forklift Cylinders**

Forklift cylinders are manufactured to DOT specifications and, like smaller cylinders, can be made from either aluminum or steel. They typically hold 33 lb of propane, but other sizes are also available.

Every DOT cylinder has a foot ring. It is used to protect the bottom of the cylinder from damage and also functions as a support stand or base.

Forklift cylinders also have a protective collar. It partially surrounds the valves in the service end. The collar often incorporates a handle for lifting and moving the cylinder.

Openings for valves and fittings are located in the service end of the cylinder. Many valves are made with non-metallic or soft parts.

If any of these parts become worn out, propane liquid or vapor can leak out of the valve and create a potentially hazardous situation, so valves should be examined at each filling or exchange of the cylinder.







#### Forklift Cylinder Parts

One of the many parts of a forklift cylinder is the pressure-relief valve, which provides overpressure protection to the cylinder. It should be kept clean, unrestricted, set to the 12 o'clock position, and directed upward at a 45-degree angle when the cylinder is mounted horizontally.

Relief valves on forklift cylinders must be replaced within 12 years of the cylinder's manufacture date, and every 10 years thereafter. A rain cap or dust cap must also be in place.

Filler valves have an internal check valve to limit fuel loss in the event of an accident. This valve should be covered with a plastic cap.

The fixed maximum liquid level gauge is an integral part of the filling operation when filling cylinders by the volume method.

DOT cylinders may have a fuel gauge that shows the approximate fuel level.

The liquid hose is the part of the carburetion system that is equipped with the female portion of the connector.











The liquid service valve is equipped with the male portion of a forklift connector, which acts as an added check valve. Both the male and female halves are equipped with 100% shutoffs. When coupled together, they open and allow gas to flow.

If the liquid service valve is turned on without being connected to the female portion, no gas can escape because the coupler has two seals: an "O" ring and a flat washer.



Both the washer and the "O" ring should be replaced if they show signs of wear, abuse, or leakage.

The service valve can be turned off for service or emergencies and is equipped with an internal excess-flow-check valve designed to close automatically if a line is severed. When the propane cylinder is in use, the valve must be open completely.

#### **Filling Cylinders**

Before filling a cylinder, make sure you are aware of the following information regarding safety and handling procedures, and be sure to check with your supervisor for any exceptions.

- Know your facility's fire prevention and emergency evacuation plans, including where and how to operate emergency shutdown and pump controls. Please note that there are different types of emergency shutdown systems. Be sure you know how to operate the emergency shutdown system at your facility.
- Locate the nearest fire extinguishers and make sure they are in proper
  working condition. Know how to use the fire extinguishers according to
  your company policies. Only use fire extinguishers to create an escape
  route not to fight a propane fire. The only safe way to extinguish a
  propane fire is to stop the flow of propane.
- Before operating a filling station, ensure there are no ignition sources within 25 feet of the points of transfer, or metal-working operations including grinding, oxygen-fuel gas cutting, brazing, soldering, or welding — within 35 feet.

#### **Pre-Filling Procedures**

Before starting the cylinder filling operation, follow these steps to ensure the safety of you, your customers, and fellow employees:

- Do not allow unauthorized people in the filling area.
- Open the secured filling area and inspect the cylinder filling station equipment.
- Remove the hose from its secure storage location.
   If the location isn't weather-protected, remove the dust cap or plug from the hose filling adapter.
- Open the appropriate liquid outlet and bypass return valves on the storage tank.
- Verify the cylinder you are preparing to fill is a propane cylinder by reviewing the cylinder design code specification markings on the cylinder.
- Verify the cylinder is not out of date by checking the date code on the cylinder.
- Inspect the cylinder to be sure it's not damaged or leaking and is safe to fill.
- If the cylinder is new and has not been vacuumpurged or is a cylinder that has been open to the atmosphere, it will need to be purged properly before filling.
- If you find any defects that would prevent you from filling a cylinder, mark the cylinder and set it aside in a designated safe area. Contact your propane supplier for assistance.

Forklift cylinders must also be filled outdoors or in an approved filling area. The lift truck ignition should be off and the hand brake set.

Filling cylinders on a truck requires certain safety measures. Not all jurisdictions allow filling on the truck. Check with your supervisor. If it is permitted, pull-away protection is required.

Always put on appropriate personal protective equipment before filling cylinders. In addition, a trained operator must be present during the entire filling process.

#### Filling Forklift Cylinders by Weight

When filling forklift cylinders by weight, it's important to note that the steps involved may vary depending on the type of equipment installed at the facility. Always consult your supervisor for more information.

Before beginning the filling process, make sure the platform scale is clear of all debris and obstructions. In addition, platform scales require periodic maintenance and should be checked for accuracy.

To fill a forklift cylinder by weight:

Make sure all cylinder valves are closed.

Follow these steps to determine the total filled weight of a cylinder:

- Check the water capacity and tare weight stamped on the cylinder or its protective collar.
- Determine propane capacity by using the following formula:

Propane Capacity (lb) = water capacity (lb) X .42

- Add the tare weight and propane capacity together to determine the total filled weight of the cylinder.
- Next, add the hose and fitting weight to the total filled weight of the cylinder. This is the scale set point. Set the platform scale to the set point. Make sure the scale is level and no obstructions interfere with proper operation. Always be present and pay close attention during the entire filling operation.
- Place the cylinder on the scale.
- Select the proper hose end adapter to fit the cylinder valve.
- Remove the protective cap or plug from the valve.
- · Connect to the cylinder.



- Start the pump.
  - » If through a filler valve, slowly open the hose end valve.
  - » If through a service valve, open the hose end valve, then slowly open the cylinder service valve.
- When target weight is reached, close the hose end valve.
- Shut off the pump.
- Make sure the service valve is closed.
- Loosen the connection and wait for any trapped liquid to bleed off.
- When trapped liquid is vented, disconnect the hose end fitting.
- Verify the filled weight, as required by regulations.
- Use an approved method, such as a non-corrosive leak detector solution, to check for leaks.
- Reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs.
  - » If the cylinder has a filler valve, reinstall the cap.
  - » Replace any caps and plugs that are missing.
- Apply any required DOT and/or OSHA labels and a cylinder warning label if the manufacturer's label is not legible or you removed a paper or plastic sleeve.









#### **Filling Forklift Cylinders by Volume**

Before filling cylinders by volume, open and close the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge to be sure vapor vents. If no vapor escapes, the valve may be blocked and must be reopened before the gauge will operate properly. Do not attempt to fill a cylinder by volume if the fixed maximum liquid level gauge is damaged or inoperable.

Filling by volume follows a similar procedure, with a few adjustments:

- Make sure all cylinder valves are closed.
- Select the proper hose end adapter to fit the filler valve or service valve.
- Remove the protective cap or plug from the valve. Connect the cylinder.
- Open the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge. If a white mist appears when the gauge is opened, stop! The cylinder is already full.
- Start the pump.
  - » If through a filler valve, slowly open the hose end valve.
- When a white mist begins to escape from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, immediately close the hose end valve.
- Close the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge. Failure to shut off the propane promptly will result in an overfilled cylinder. Overfilling a cylinder can create a hazardous condition.







- Shut off the pump.
- Loosen the connection and wait for any trapped liquid to bleed off.
- When trapped liquid has vented, disconnect the hose end fitting.
- Reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs.
   If the cylinder has a filler valve, reinstall the cap.
- Replace any caps and plugs that are missing.
- Apply any required DOT and/or OSHA labels and a cylinder warning label if the manufacturer's label is not legible or you removed a paper or plastic sleeve.
- Position the cylinder securely, using the locating pin on the truck and the hole in the cylinder collar. Secure the hold-down straps properly.
- Reconnect the fuel line and check the cylinder and its valves for leaks with a non-corrosive leak detector solution. Inspect the gaskets and "0" rings in the filler valve and service valve connector for defects or leaks.





# **Post-Filling Procedures**

After the cylinder filling operation has been completed or any time the filling station is unattended:

- Close the valves at the storage tank.
- Store the hose on a rack inside a fence-protected area, inside the dispenser cabinet, or secured to a supporting structure inside the filling room. If the location isn't weather-protected, install a dust cap or plug into the hose filling adapter. Secure the installation against tampering or unauthorized use.

# **Cylinder Exchange**

- 1. Park the truck in a designated safe area and stop the engine.
- Close the cylinder valve and remove the quick-disconnect coupling from the cylinder.
- Remove the empty cylinder from the cradle holding device and store it in a designated safe area.
- 4. Select a filled cylinder and check it for damage or leaks. Also be sure to inspect the fuel lines and forklift connector couplings, especially the washers and "O" rings, for damage or signs of aging.
- 5. Be sure the cylinder valve is closed prior to connecting.
- Carefully install the filled cylinder in the cradle on the truck so the cylinder locator pin enters the locating hole in the cylinder collar.
- 7. Reconnect the fuel line to the cylinder liquid service valve and open the valve slowly.







8. Securely mount the cylinder in its brackets and within the outline of the vehicle.

In some instances, locating pins may be missing or broken off, allowing the cylinder to be mounted in any position. When this happens, the liquid withdrawal tube may give a false indication that the cylinder is empty. The pressure-relief valve may also be immersed in liquid fuel, which would cause the cylinder to vent liquid in the event that it was activated.

In the event that the locating pins for a cylinder are broken, take the forklift out of service.

9. Check for leaks using an approved method, such as a non-corrosive leak detector solution. If a leak is found, close the valve immediately and notify your supervisor or manager. If no leaks are found, start the engine and proceed with your work.





Refueling
Motorhomes
and Other
Vehicle-Mounted
ASME Tanks

# Introduction

Propane dispensers are used to refuel motorhome tanks and other vehicle-mounted ASME tanks such as catering truck tanks. This module does not include information on filling motor fuel tanks (see Module 9: Dispensing Propane Autogas).



This module gives you the basic information needed to fill motorhome tanks and other vehicle-mounted ASME

tanks. However, before you begin the filling process, you need to make sure that you review the first three modules of this program. These three modules will provide you a better understanding of how to safely handle and transfer liquid propane as well as a review of the dispensing equipment you will use.

You have not completed the necessary training to fill motorhome and other vehicle-mounted ASME tanks unless you have completed modules 1 through 3 first.

#### **Features of Vehicle-Mounted ASME Tanks**

There are several variations of vehicle-mounted ASME tanks. All variations are equipped with a[n]:

- ASME data plate
- Fixed maximum liquid level gauge
- Relief valve
- 1 3/4" ACME filler valve
- Float gauge that displays approximate liquid level

A fixed maximum liquid level gauge is installed in the ASME tank with a tube inside at the maximum liquid filling line.

Fuel tank float gauges are used to confirm the liquid level before and after filling. They are not used for filling but rather to let you know when you need a refill.

The filler valve assembly may include a stop-fill/auto-stop valve that acts as an overfill protection device similar to those used in portable DOT cylinders.

Motorhome tanks and other vehicle-mounted tanks provide vapor service to appliances within a vehicle, such as a gas range. A vapor service valve assembly may include a relief valve. A pressure regulator is connected to the vapor service valve.

If the tank is enclosed within the body of the vehicle, hoses called pipe-aways may be connected to the relief valve, the filler valve, and the fixed maximum liquid level gauge to carry any discharged propane to the outside and to provide ready access for filling.









# **Inspecting Tank, Valves, and Hoses**

When inspecting the tank, valves, and hoses, look for signs of damage. Any damage could cause a propane leak that could result in a fire. Specifically, damage to:

- Filler valve threads or gaskets
- Fixed maximum liquid level gauge
- Vapor service hose or valve
- Relief valve or pipe-away hose
- The tank dents, gouges, or significant corrosion
- Float gauge face cracks or other damage





If any damage is present, DO NOT fill the tank.

# **Verify Markings and Labels**

The following markings and labels must be present and visible:

An ASME data plate lists the working pressure and other tank information. If the data plate is missing or illegible or shows a working pressure other than 250 or 312 psi, the tank must not be filled.

# Filling Motorhome or Other Vehicle-Mounted ASME Tanks

Before filling a vehicle-mounted ASME tank, make sure no one is inside the vehicle and that the ignition is turned off.

Customers should be restricted from the immediate area around the liquid propane filling operation.

Make sure there are no ignition sources within 25 feet of the fill connection or metal-working operations — including grinding, oxygen-fuel gas cutting, brazing, soldering, or welding — within 35 feet.

Filling procedures for vehicle-mounted ASME tanks used for motorhomes and catering trucks are used to supply propane appliances that are possible ignition sources. Therefore, it is critically important that appliance pilots and electronic ignition systems are turned off before starting the filling process.

Notify the owner that you are turning the propane fuel supply off at the vapor service valve. Be sure that pilots and ignition systems are off.

Always put on appropriate personal protective equipment before starting the filling operation.

- Set the propane meter to zero.
- Connect the fill hose to the tank fill valve.
- Open the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge and check for flow. If vapor appears, continue the filling process. If liquid appears, stop the filling process because the tank is full.
- Start the pump and slowly open the valve on the end of the hose.
- When a steady white mist or fog is first emitted from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, or the OPD stops the flow, immediately close the hose end valve.
- Close the fixed maximum liquid level gauge.
- Shut off the pump.
- Slowly loosen the filler adapter to vent liquid propane trapped between the filler adapter and the tank filler valve. Wait until propane stops venting before completely disconnecting the adapter.
- Check the valve for leaks and replace the dust cap.











If it is not your company's policy to light customer pilot lights, you should advise the customer to have a professional service company or gas distributor light the pilot lights. If the customer does this without professional help, the appliance manufacturer's instructions must be followed carefully.

When the dispenser is not in use, or at any time a qualified dispenser operator is not in attendance, it should be shut down and secured in keeping with company operating procedures.

The shutdown procedure should ensure that:

- Dispenser operating valves are closed.
- Transfer hoses are secured in storage cabinets or their designated locations.
- The dispenser cabinet or fence gates are closed and locked.

Becoming familiar with both the fuel system and safe filling procedures will ensure your safety as well as that of your customers.



# Dispensing Propane Safely for Mowers

# Introduction

Propane lawn mowers offer many benefits to professional landscape contractors, including reduced costs, lower emissions, and long run times between fills. Refueling propane equipment is an easy and safe process, if you follow the proper procedures.

In order to ensure your safety and the safety of your co-workers when dispensing propane, you should know about the fuel, equipment, regulations, and processes that are involved in refueling propane mowers.

This module gives you the basic information needed to fill propane mower cylinders. However, before you begin the filling process, you need to make sure that you review the first four modules of this program.





These four modules will provide you a better understanding of:

- How to safely handle and transfer liquid propane
- · Information about the dispensing equipment
- Various cylinder components
- · Required cylinder markings
- Pre-fill visual inspection
- Requalification requirements
- Purging cylinders
- Labeling, loading, and transporting cylinders

You have not completed the necessary training to fill propane mower cylinders unless you complete modules 1 through 4 first.

If you refuel propane mowers, there are several responsibilities that come with the job. They include:

- Understanding the routine inspections, operation, and regulations that apply to the dispensing equipment.
- Making sure that the correct type of cylinder is being used on the mower.
- Inspecting cylinders to ensure that they are safe for filling.
- Filling cylinders to their proper levels and preventing containers from being overfilled.
- Maintaining the security of the propane dispenser and transfer area by confining or restricting ignition sources, and preventing tampering or the release of propane.
- Shutting down and securing the dispenser in the event of an emergency.

Whether you have an on-site propane refueling station or are simply exchanging cylinders, this manual will provide you with the necessary information needed to safely refuel your mower.

#### **Propane Cylinders**

There are two types of propane cylinders that are used on mowers. The most common are cylinders that use a left-hand thread and have a vapor service valve, commonly referred to as outdoor power equipment or mower cylinders. These have a colored, usually green, collar and are designed specifically for mower applications.

Some mowers designed to use forklift cylinders have a right-hand thread and a liquid service valve. The different threads prevent users from installing the wrong type of cylinder on the mower. If you are not sure which type of cylinder your mower requires, please consult your equipment manufacturer or dealer.

Do not attempt to modify, convert, or otherwise tamper with the valves on the cylinder or mower, as they are not interchangeable.

Both types of propane cylinders have common valves and gauges. These may include:

- Pressure-relief valve
- Filler valve
- Fixed maximum liquid level gauge
- Fuel gauge
- Liquid or vapor service valve







The pressure-relief valve provides overpressure protection to the cylinder. If the pressure inside the container becomes too high, the relief valve releases vapor and reduces the pressure to a safe level. It should be kept clean, unrestricted, and set to the 12 o'clock position when the cylinder is mounted horizontally, whether on a mower or in a storage rack. A rain cap or dust cap must also be in place.

Most cylinders have a filler valve. The valve has an internal check valve that prevents fuel from leaving the cylinder. The filler valve should be covered with a plastic cap. Some filler valves may contain an overfill prevention device, or OPD.

The fixed maximum liquid level gauge indicates when the maximum permitted filling level has been reached in the cylinder. When the level of liquid propane reaches the tube opening, liquid propane emits out of the vent valve, signaling the operator to stop filling.

Cylinders may also have a fuel gauge that shows the approximate fuel level.

Mower-specific cylinders with a left-hand thread have a vapor service valve. Forklift cylinders with a right-hand thread have a liquid service valve. Each valve has an internal check valve to prevent fuel from leaving the cylinder. When the cylinder is in use, the valve must be opened completely.











Liquid and vapor service valves are equipped with a male quick-disconnect coupling, which acts as an added check valve. A hose that is part of the carburetion system is equipped with the female portion of the coupling. Both the male and female halves are equipped with 100% shutoffs. When coupled together, they open and allow gas to flow.

If the liquid service valve is turned on without being connected to the female portion, no gas can escape because the coupler has two seals: an "O" ring and a flat washer.

Both the washer and the "O" ring should be replaced if they show signs of wear, abuse, or leakage.





# **Filling Mower Cylinders**

Before filling a cylinder, make sure you are aware of the following information regarding safety and handling procedures, and be sure to check with your supervisor for any exceptions:

- Know your facility's fire prevention and emergency evacuation plans, including where and how to operate emergency shutdown and pump controls. Please note that there are different types of emergency shutdown systems. Be sure you know how to operate the emergency shutdown system at your facility.
- Locate the nearest fire extinguishers
   and make sure they are in proper working
   condition. Know how to use the fire
   extinguishers according to your company
   policies. Only use fire extinguishers to
   create an escape route not to fight a
   propane fire. The only safe way to extinguish
   a propane fire is to stop the flow of propane.
- Ensure there are no ignition sources within 25 feet of the filling area, or metal-working operations including grinding, oxygen fuel gas cutting, brazing, soldering, or welding within 35 feet.







#### **Pre-Filling Procedures**

Before starting the cylinder filling operation, follow these steps to ensure the safety of you and fellow employees:

- Do not allow unauthorized people in the filling area.
- Open the secured filling area and inspect the cylinder filling station equipment.
- Remove the hose from its secure storage location.
   If the location isn't weather-protected, remove the dust cap or plug from the hose filling adapter.
- Open the appropriate liquid outlet and bypass return valves on the storage tank.
- Verify the cylinder you are preparing to fill is a propane cylinder by reviewing the cylinder design code specification markings on the cylinder.
- Verify the cylinder is not out of date by checking the date code on the cylinder.
- Inspect the cylinder to be sure it's not damaged or leaking and is safe to fill.
- If the cylinder is new and has not been vacuumpurged or is a cylinder that has been open to the atmosphere, it will need to be purged properly before filling.
- If you find any defects that would prevent you from filling a cylinder, it should be marked and set aside in a designated safe area. Contact your propane supplier for assistance.











Remember that a trained operator must be present during the entire filling procedure.

There are two ways to fill a mower cylinder. They can be filled by weight, using an accurate and approved method, or they can be filled by volume, using the fixed maximum liquid level gauge. All cylinders must be filled outdoors or in an approved filling area.

Whether filling by weight or volume, the following steps should be taken before you fill or exchange your cylinder:

- Park the mower and turn off the engine. Set the parking brake.
- Put on appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Touch a grounded object to control static electricity.
- Close the service valve.
- Unscrew the service line fitting.
   If you have a left-hand thread,
   loosen to the right. If it's a
   right-hand thread, loosen
   to the left.
- Remove cylinder from the mower and set upright on level ground.
- Inspect cylinder and valves for leaks, wear, and damage.
- Make sure all cylinder valves are closed.













#### **Filling Mower Cylinders by Weight**

When filling mower cylinders by weight, it's important to note that the steps involved may vary depending on the type of equipment installed at the facility. Always consult your supervisor for more information.

Before beginning the filling process, make sure the platform scale is clear of all debris and obstructions. In addition, platform scales require periodic maintenance and should be checked for accuracy.

To fill cylinders by weight, follow these steps to determine the total filled weight of a cylinder:

- Check the water capacity and tare weight stamped on the cylinder or its protective collar.
- Determine propane capacity by using the following formula:

Propane Capacity (lb) = water capacity (lb) X .42

- Add the tare weight and propane capacity together to determine the total filled weight of the cylinder.
- Next, add the hose and fitting weight to the total filled weight of the cylinder. This is the scale set point. Set the platform scale to the set point. Make sure the scale is level and no obstructions interfere with proper operation. Always be present and pay close attention during the entire filling operation.
- Place the cylinder on the scale.
- Select the proper hose end adapter to fit the cylinder valve.







- Remove the protective cap or plug from the valve.
- Connect the dispensing hose by rotating the filler nozzle clockwise until it is firmly attached to the filler valve.
- Start the pump and slowly open the filler nozzle or hose end valve.
- When target weight is reached, close the filler nozzle or hose end valve.
- Shut off the pump.
- Loosen the connection and wait for any trapped liquid to bleed off.
- When all trapped liquid has been vented, disconnect the filler nozzle or hose end fitting.
- Verify the filled weight.
- Reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs.
   Replace any caps and plugs that are missing.
- Apply any required DOT and/or OSHA labels and a cylinder warning label if the manufacturer's label is not legible or you removed a paper or plastic sleeve.











#### **Filling Mower Cylinders by Volume**

Before filling cylinders by volume, open and close the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge to be sure vapor vents. If no vapor escapes, the valve may be blocked and must be reopened before the gauge will operate properly. Do not attempt to fill a cylinder by volume if the fixed maximum liquid level gauge is damaged or inoperable.

Filling by volume follows a similar procedure, with a few adjustments. Remember to always be present and pay close attention during the entire filling operation:

- Select the proper nozzle or hose end adapter to fit the filler valve or service valve.
- Remove the protective cap or plug from the valve.
- Connect the cylinder.
- Open the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge. If a white mist appears when the gauge is opened, stop! The cylinder is already full.









- Start the pump.
  - » If through a filler valve, slowly open the filler nozzle or hose end valve.
  - » If through a service valve, open the filler nozzle or hose end valve and then slowly open the cylinder service valve.
- When a white mist begins to escape from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, immediately close the hose end valve.
- Close the vent valve on the fixed maximum liquid level gauge. Failure to shut off the propane promptly will result in an overfilled cylinder. Overfilling a cylinder can create a hazardous condition.
- Shut off the pump.
- Make sure the cylinder service valve is closed.
- Loosen the connection and wait for any trapped liquid to bleed off.
- When all trapped liquid has been vented, disconnect the filler nozzle or hose end fitting.
- Reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs.
   Replace any caps and plugs that are missing.
- Apply any required DOT and/or OSHA labels and a cylinder warning label if the manufacturer's label is not legible or you removed a paper or plastic sleeve.









# **Post-Filling Procedures**

After the cylinder filling operation has been completed or any time the filling station is unattended:

- Close the valves at the storage tank.
- Store the hose on a rack inside a
  fence-protected area, inside the
  dispenser cabinet, or secured to a
  supporting structure inside the
  filling room. If the location isn't
  weather-protected, install a dust cap
  or plug into the hose filling adapter.
  Secure the installation against
  tampering or unauthorized use.



#### **Cylinder Exchange**

When exchanging a mower cylinder, the following steps should be taken as you bring your mower to the protective storage cage:

- Park the mower and turn off the engine. Set the parking brake.
- Put on appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Touch a grounded object to control static electricity.
- Close the service valve.
- Unscrew the service line fitting.
   If you have a left-hand thread,
   loosen to the right. If it's a
   right-hand thread, loosen to
   the left.





- Remove cylinder from the mower and store in a designated safe area.
- Select a full cylinder.
- Inspect cylinder and valves for leaks, wear, and damage.
- Make sure all cylinder valves are closed.





#### **Placing Cylinders onto Mowers**

If the cylinder is installed horizontally, position the cylinder securely using the alignment pin on the saddle that matches the hole in the collar of the cylinder. Secure the hold-down straps properly. Make sure the pressure-relief valve is set to the 12 o'clock position.

In some instances, alignment pins may be missing or have broken off. If your mower has a missing or broken pin, it should be replaced immediately as it can cause a serious safety problem.







If the cylinder is installed vertically, simply position the cylinder securely in the cradle and secure the hold-down straps properly.

Make sure the service valve is closed before connecting the fuel line.

Reconnect the fuel line and slowly open the service valve. Check the cylinder and its valves for leaks with a non-corrosive leak detector solution, inspecting the gaskets and "O" rings in the filler valve, and service valve connector for defects or leaks. If a leak is found, close the service valve immediately and notify your supervisor.





If no leaks are found, start mower and you are ready to go.

Refueling propane lawn mowers is an efficient and easy process when performed safely. Remember to always properly refuel your mower and do not take shortcuts. Your safety and the safety of your co-workers depend on it.



# Dispensing Propane Autogas

#### Introduction

Propane autogas dispensing stations across the U.S. offer a safe, convenient, and quick fueling source for vehicles. In order to ensure your safety and the safety of your co-workers, you should know about the fuel, equipment, processes, and regulations that are involved in fueling these vehicles.

This module gives you the basic information needed to fill propane autogas tanks. However, before you begin the filling process, you need to make sure that you review the first two modules of this program. These two modules will provide you a better understanding of how to safely handle and transfer liquid propane.

You have not completed the necessary training to fill propane autogas tanks unless you have complete modules 1 and 2 first.

#### **Dispensing Station Equipment**

Propane autogas dispensing systems are very similar to gasoline or diesel dispensing systems, with a few important differences:

- Propane autogas dispensers are closed, pressurized systems that keep the propane in its liquid state.
- Most dispensers use a gasoline-style, low-emission nozzle that has a closed, threaded connection to maintain pressure while transferring the fuel. Some dispensers use a low-emission nozzle that does not have a threaded connection and is placed directly on the filling connection.



To dispense propane autogas safely, be familiar with the specific equipment you are working with and how to use it. Just like a gasoline station and gasoline pump, each propane autogas fueling site and dispenser will have instructions on the correct use of the equipment. Equipment at fueling sites vary, so always follow instructions at your site.

#### **Refueling a Vehicle: Preparation**

Before refueling a vehicle, make sure you are aware of the following information regarding safety and handling procedures:

- Know your facility's fire prevention and emergency evacuation plans, including
  where and how to operate the emergency shutoff valve. Please note that there
  are different types of emergency shutdown systems. Be sure you know how to
  operate the emergency shutdown system at your facility.
- Locate the nearest fire extinguishers and make sure they are in proper working
  condition. Know how to use the fire extinguishers according to your company
  policies. Only use fire extinguishers to create an escape route not to fight a
  propane autogas fire. The only safe way to extinguish a propane autogas fire
  is to stop the flow of fuel.
- Ensure there are no ignition sources within 25 feet of the filling area, or metalworking operations — including grinding, oxygen-fuel gas cutting, brazing, soldering, or welding — within 35 feet.

Make sure that a propane decal is in the lower-right of the rear of the vehicle, above the bumper. This is required on propane autogas-fueled vehicles.

Inspect the dispensing equipment. Check for signs of damage or areas that could be leaking. Check the hose and filler nozzle for signs of wear. If you smell propane, or see or hear a propane leak, do not fill the vehicle.



In addition, be sure to follow any instructions for inspection or operation of the vehicle that are provided to you by the manufacturer or your propane autogas supplier.

#### **Refueling a Vehicle: Connecting**

Much like with conventional fuels, refueling a vehicle with propane autogas is a simple, efficient, and safe process. Follow these steps:

- Park on level ground near the dispenser to ensure that the tank is filled properly.
- Turn off the vehicle. Make sure that no one is inside the vehicle while you refuel.
- Do not allow unauthorized people in the filling area.
- Remember that an operator must be present during the entire filling procedure.
- Do not smoke strike matches, or light a cigarette lighter.
- Do not use cell phones or other electronic devices.
- Put on appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Touch a grounded object to control static electricity.
- Remove the motor fuel filler valve cap
  - by turning the cap counter-clockwise.
  - Be sure to keep track of the cap for
  - · replacement after refueling.





- Inspect the filler valve. Make sure the
   "O" ring in the filler valve is seated in the
   groove and is not damaged or missing.
   Never connect the filler nozzle to the
   filler valve if the "O" ring is missing or
   damaged. This could result in a release of
   propane, with the potential for injury or fire.
- Connect any fill hose end valve adapter, if necessary.
- If you have a threaded nozzle, connect the propane autogas filler nozzle to the motor fuel filler valve, and rotate the filler valve nozzle clockwise until it is firmly attached to the filler valve. Make sure the nozzle is properly threaded; an improperly threaded nozzle could lead to a dangerous leak.
- If you have a nozzle that does not have a threaded connection, push the nozzle securely on the filling connection. The nozzle will automatically lock onto the connector when the trigger is squeezed. As a built-in safety device, if the nozzle is not connected properly, propane will not be dispensed.





#### Refueling a Vehicle: Dispensing Propane Autogas

- Activate or "turn on" the dispenser.
- Slowly squeeze the nozzle trigger to begin fueling.
- When the OPD stops the flow of fuel into the tank, close the filler nozzle.
- Turn off the dispenser.
- Disconnect the filler nozzle by rotating the nozzle connector counter-clockwise, and return it to the dispenser. If you have a non-threaded nozzle, the nozzle and connection will separate automatically when the trigger is released. Once this occurs, you can return the nozzle to the dispenser.
- Check for leaks near the filler valve.
   Follow your company's policy if you observe a leak. Replace the filler valve cap, if applicable.
- You are now ready to go.



Refueling propane autogas vehicles is a safe, efficient, and quick process. Always refuel your vehicle properly and do not take shortcuts. Your safety and the safety of your co-workers depend on it.



## Composite Cylinders

#### Introduction

Composite cylinders are different in many ways from steel and aluminum cylinders. Propane composite cylinders are high-strength containers made from a mixture of fiberglass or carbon fibers and a plastic resin, typically epoxy.

The main body of the composite cylinder may be translucent, which means that the user can easily see the liquid level in the cylinder and avoid unexpected fuel run-outs.

The service and fill connections on composite cylinders are identical to those connections on valves used in steel or aluminum cylinders. No adapters are necessary to use or fill composite cylinders.







#### **Special Care of Composite Cylinders**

The proper care and handling procedures for composite cylinders are different from those of steel and aluminum cylinders. When handling composite cylinders:

- Do not expose composite cylinders to temperatures higher than 149°F.
- If a composite cylinder is dropped from a distance of four feet or greater, a complete inspection should be performed by qualified personnel.
- Wash composite cylinders with soap and water and be sure to completely rinse the soap away after washing.
- Water-jet and chemical cleaning methods can be used to remove other materials from the cylinder surface, such as tar oil, labels, and other foreign particles.

#### **Inspecting a Composite Cylinder Before Filling**

Before a composite cylinder can be filled, a visual inspection must be performed to ensure the cylinder is still in proper condition and can be filled safely. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for pre-fill inspections.

- 1. Inspect the cylinder to ensure that the required permanent markings are on the cylinder.
- 2. Check the markings for completeness, and make sure that the latest test or inspection date is no more than five years old. If the latest inspection date is more than five years old, the cylinder cannot be filled and must be removed from service for requalification. Additionally, any cylinder that is more than 15 years beyond its original inspection must be permanently removed from service, and cannot be requalified for continued service.
- If any damage is observed that meets or exceeds the rejection limits, the cylinder must be permanently removed from service by personnel who are authorized, in writing, by the manufacturer.

Once a pre-fill inspection of the composite cylinder has been completed and no damage has been observed that requires removal or repair of the cylinder, it can be filled with propane.







#### Filling a Composite Cylinder

Filling composite cylinders must be consistent with the shipping requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations for DOT. This means that the same local, state, and federal filling regulations and procedures that are used for steel or aluminum cylinders should be used for filling composite cylinders.

Since composite cylinders are made of resins that have the ability to generate and store static electricity, additional safe handling procedures are recommended. Composite cylinders should be neutralized with a water spray or antistatic solution before refurbishing, purging, or filling.

#### **Filling Composite Cylinders by Weight**

Composite cylinders less than 200 lb water-capacity are required by the DOT to be filled by weight if they are being transported in commerce. Otherwise, they can be filled by volume.

Since filling by weight may be different depending on the cylinder type, contact the manufacturer for complete fill-by-weight instructions.







## Additional Training for Filling Composite Cylinders

DOT special permits require that each "hazmat employee" who performs a function mentioned in the permits, such as filling or refilling cylinders, must receive training on the requirements and conditions of the permits in addition to the training required by DOT regulations.

One of the special provisions included in DOT special permits for composite cylinders is that a copy of the manufacturer's DOT special permit for the specific composite cylinder filled must be maintained at each facility where the cylinder is offered or reoffered for transportation.





Retail
Cylinder
Exchange
Operations

#### Introduction

Cylinder exchange cabinets provide a convenient way for recreational and grill cylinder customers to obtain fuel. Retail exchange cabinets are used to store small cylinders awaiting resale or exchange and can be found at home improvement, convenience, hardware, and equipment rental stores, as well as gas stations, campground grocery stores, and truck stops.



Consult with your local Authority Having Jurisdiction
[AHJ] should you have questions regarding the proper location or other code requirements for a retail cylinder exchange cabinet.

Exchange cabinets can be used to store either full cylinders or empty cylinders that have been returned by customers. Whether full or empty, all cylinders should be handled in the same manner.

Following proper procedures will ensure that cylinders are stored and handled safely. Check with your supervisor if you are not sure of all cylinder exchange cabinet procedures or requirements.

#### **Setting Up Cylinder Cabinets**

Cylinders stored at a location open to the public must be protected by a fenced enclosure, a lockable ventilated metal locker, or a rack that prevents tampering and theft of cylinders. They should always be locked when unattended.

Cabinets should be set on a firm, non-combustible base in a well-ventilated area that is free of combustibles and flammable materials. Many public buildings also require protection for the cages from vehicular damage.

In addition, cabinets are required to have various markings affixed to them. These may include "Flammable Gas," "No Smoking," OSHA warning, and product identification labels. Check with your supervisor or manager for other requirements.





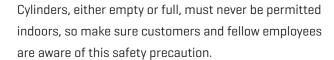
DOT regulations require cylinders also be labeled to indicate contents and be stored with the relief valve in the vapor space of the container. For exchange grill cylinders, this is in the vertical, upright position.

Cylinders stored in an exchange cabinet should have a quick-closing valve outlet and have a protective cap or collar, or be plugged unless it has an OPD. An OPD is a special cylinder service valve that stops the flow of gas liquid into the cylinder when the cylinder is about 80% filled. These are found on all vertical 4 lb through 40 lb cylinders.

#### **Location Requirements**

Cylinder storage cabinets must be at least 20 feet away from any gas station fuel dispenser to prevent combustion. In some states, cabinets are required to be at least 5 feet from sources of ignition, including soft drink and ice machines, cigarette urns, air conditioners, and some telephones. Consult your local authorities for more information.

Cabinets must also be placed at least 5 feet from any doorway or opening in a public building. For buildings with only one exit, cylinder racks must be located at least 10 feet from that exit.







#### **Safety Requirements**

If more than 720 lb of propane — the equivalent of 36 or more 20 lb grill cylinders — are stored in one location, the area must be provided with at least one approved portable fire extinguisher. Fire extinguishers should have a minimum capacity of 18 lb of dry chemical with a B:C rating and be located no more than 50 feet from the storage location.

Remember — fire extinguishers are intended for small fires, such as those involving combustible materials, and should not be used to put out large propane fires.



## Pre-Requisite Module Table

### **Pre-Requisite Module Table**

Type of Cylinder or Tank to Fill	Pre-Requisite Module
Small Portable Cylinders (Module 5)	1, 2, 3, 4
Forklift Cylinders (Module 6)	1, 2, 3, 4
Motorhome and Other Vehicle-Mounted ASME Tanks (Module 7)	1, 2, 3
Mower Cylinders (Module 8)	1, 2, 3, 4
Autogas Vehicle Tanks (Module 9)	1, 2

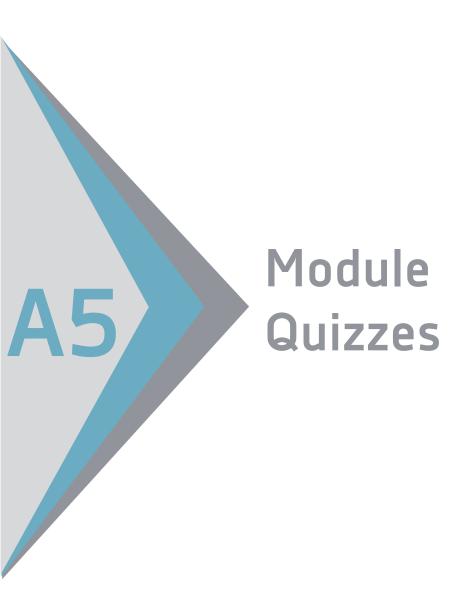


## DOT Cylinder Code Chart

#### **DOT Cylinder Code Chart**

	DOT Cylinde	er Code Chart	
DOT/ICC Cylinder Codes for Propane Service	Typical Cylinder Material	Cylinder Construction	Service Pressure (PSIG)
3A	Steel	Seamless	240 or 300
3AA	Steel	Seamless	240 or 300
3B	Steel	Seamless	240 or 300
4B240	Steel	2 or 3 pc., Welded, or Brazed	240
4BA240	Alloy Steel (Prescribed)	2 or 3 pc., Welded, or Brazed	240
4BA260	Alloy Steel (Prescribed)	2 or 3 pc., Welded, or Brazed	260
4BA300	Alloy Steel (Prescribed)	2 or 3 pc., Welded, or Brazed	300
4BW240	Steel (Prescribed)	3 pc., Welded	240
4BW300	Steel (Prescribed)	3 pc., Welded	300
4E240	Aluminum	2 pc., Welded	240
4E300	Aluminum	2 pc., Welded	300
39-240/300 (Non-refillable)	Steel	Welded	240
*ICC 26-150	Steel	Welded	150
*ICC 26-300	Steel	Welded	300

<sup>\*</sup>NOTE: Cylinders are no longer manufactured under this code; however, cylinders manufactured under this code are still in use today. Also, the term "service pressure" for these codes had a different meaning at the time the code was written.



## Modules 1-2 Quiz: Introduction to Dispensing Propane Safely, and Properties and Characteristics of Propane

- 1. Which is NOT a responsibility of a propane dispenser operator?
  - a. Understanding the regulations and operations of the dispensing equipment
  - b. Repairing defective and damaged cylinders
  - c. Inspecting customer cylinders and containers to ensure they are safe for filling
  - d. Filling containers to their proper levels and preventing them from being overfilled
- 2. Important safety tips to tell customers before transporting propane cylinders include:
  - a. Always transport and store a cylinder in a secure and upright position so it will not fall, shift, or roll.
  - b. Never keep a filled cylinder inside a hot vehicle.
  - c. Always proceed directly to your destination and immediately remove the cylinder from your vehicle.
  - d. All of the above
- 3. What is an SDS?
  - a. A detailed procedure for inspecting propane containers
  - b. A detailed procedure for filling propane cylinders
  - c. An information bulletin that alerts you to properties and health hazards of propane
  - d. A consumer safety information packet

4.	is added to propane to increase the likelihood that a leak
	will be detected.
	a. Moisture
	b. An identifying color
	c. Additional vapor
	d. Odorant
5.	In order to allow for liquid expansion, propane containers are typically
	filled to% of their capacity.
	a. 25
	b. 40
	c. 65
	d. 80

b	a. 2.15 b. 9.6 c. 270 d. 350
7	7. The proper mixture of propane vapor, air, and is needed for propane to burn. a. nitrogen b. humidity c. odorant d. an ignition source
8	B. If propane liquid comes in contact with your skin, it can cause  a. a rash  b. frostbite or freeze burns  c. redness similar to a sunburn  d. a slight irritation
9	D. Gloves and other PPE are required when filling containers because of the of liquid propane. a. refrigerating effect (potential for freeze burns) b. vaporization rate c. expansion properties d. toxicity
10	a. Shut down the dispenser, if safe to do so. b. Evacuate the area immediately. c. Call for help. d. All of the above

#### **Module 3 Quiz: Dispensing Station Equipment**

1	Most propane dispensers include a(n) that supplies propane to the dispensing equipment.
	a. metering system
	b. platform scale
	c. scale
	d. ASME storage tank
2	The two common types of propane dispensing set-ups include horizontal
	tank dispensers and
	a. underground tank dispensers
	b. mobile tank dispensers
	c. vertical tank dispensers
	d. round tank dispensers
3	control the flow of propane through the piping system of a dispenser.
	a. Valves
	b. Plugs
	c. Gears
	d. Meters
4	Most dispensers have a(n) to stop the flow of propane in an emergency
	a. alarm
	b. OPD
	c. shutdown system
	d. hose-end valve
5	When preparing the dispenser for use, open the liquid outlet
	valve and the first downstream manual valve.
	a. slowly
	b. quickly
	c. halfway
	d. None of the above
6	When the operator is not in attendance, the dispenser should be
	a. maintained and lubricated
	b. shut down and secured
	c. calibrated and cleaned
	d. opened to the public

#### Module 4 Quiz: DOT Cylinders

Ι.	The is a wide metal band welded or brazed to the bottom of t
	cylinder and used to protect the cylinder body from corrosion or damage.
	a. valve opening
	b. OPD
	c. pressure-relief valve
	d. foot ring
2.	An OPD serves as a
	a. primary means of preventing overfilling of cylinders
	b. secondary means of preventing overfilling of cylinders
	c. means of protection for the cylinder valves
	d. handle for lifting the cylinder
3.	To protect the valves, portable cylinders use a  a. collar
	b. NTP fitting
	c. foot ring
	d. OPD
4.	Which of the following indicates the weight of the cylinder when empty?  a. Water capacity
	b. Requalification date
	c. Design code
	d. Tare weight
5.	Which of the following is typically NOT the responsibility of a propane dispenser operator?
	a. Pre-fill visual check
	b. Scale calibration
	c. Cylinder requalification
	d. Customer education
6.	Cylinders may NOT be filled if they are past their date.
	a. annual inspection
	b. requalification
	c. maintenance test
	d. DOT fitness

7. Before a cylinder can be filled or refilled, DOT regulations require a  to verify it is fit for continued service.
a. visual check
b. requalification
c. cylinder stress test
d. purging
8. Prior to inspecting a cylinder, you should to help spot any problems.
a. wash the cylinder with soap and water
b. open the service valve
c. remove any plastic or paper sleeves
d. All of the above
9. Problems that prevent filling a cylinder include:
a. Cracks or leaks
b. Bulging, denting, or gouging
c. Out-of-date requalification
d. All of the above
10. A blue-green stain on the brass portion of the cylinder valve is evidence that
it has been in contact with
a. methanol
b. anhydrous ammonia
c. ethyl mercaptan
d. polyethylene
11. Which of the following problems can be caused by cylinders NOT properly
purged of air or moisture?
a. Fading of the odorant in the cylinder
b. Unusually low service pressures
c. Regulator overheating
d. Inaccurate weight when filling
12. DOT requires that all cylinders be clearly labeled with
a. consumer and warning information
b. valve size and propane capacity
c. NFPA 704 information and storage tips
d. shipping name and hazard class

13	. Consumer information/warning labels must be on all portable refillable cylinders of pounds propane capacity or less not filled on site. a. 20 b. 33 c. 45 d. 100
14.	Many jurisdictions limit closed-bodied vehicles such as passenger cars and vans to a maximum of pounds propane capacity, with no single container having a capacity of more than pounds.  a. 80, 30 b. 90, 45 c. 100, 50 d. 150, 75
15.	If a cylinder warning label is NOT legible or if the paper or plastic sleeve is removed during inspection,
16	New cylinders that have NOT been vacuum-purged by the manufacturer and cylinders that have been opened to the atmosphere must be prior to filling.  a. reconditioned  b. repainted  c. purged of air or moisture  d. requalified

#### **Module 5 Quiz: Filling Small Cylinders**

⊥.	a. True  b. False
2.	Before operating a filling station, ensure there are no ignition sources within feet of the points of transfer.  a. 5 b. 10 c. 25 d. 50
3.	Before starting the cylinder filling operation, which of the following steps must you always follow?  a. Do not allow unauthorized people in the filling area.  b. Always put on appropriate personal protective equipment.  c. Inspect all cylinder filling equipment before use.  d. All of the above
4.	Because platform scales have built-in safety features, it is not necessary to make sure the scale is clear of debris or obstructions before use.  a. True  b. False
5.	Always verify the cylinder you are preparing to fill is a propane cylinder by reviewing the design code specification markings on the cylinder.  a. True  b. False
6.	Container water capacity is multiplied by% when determining propane capacity.  a. 24  b. 36  c. 42  d. 58

7.	When filling a cylinder by weight, the scale set point should equal the  a. tare weight + propane capacity (lb)  b. tare weight + propane capacity (lb) + hose and fitting weight  c. propane capacity (lb) + hose and fitting weight  d. tare weight + propane capacity (lb) - hose weight
8.	After filling the cylinder, you need to to complete the job.  a. check for leaks using an approved method  b. reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs  c. apply any required labels if missing or not legible  d. All of the above
9.	When filling a cylinder by volume using the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, the filling process relies on the to determine when the maximum permitted filling limit for a cylinder is reached.  a. sensor  b. trip lever  c. operator  d. control valve
LO.	When filling a cylinder by volume and a white mist begins to escape from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, you need to immediately  a. shut off the pump  b. check for leaks  c. close the hose end valve  d. close the service valve

## Module 6 Quiz: Refueling, Maintaining, and Troubleshooting Forklift Cylinders

1	. Forklift cylinders typically hold pounds of propane. a. 20 b. 33 c. 45 d. 100
2	The purpose of the O-ring inside the forklift connector is to provide  a. weather protection  b. a gas-tight seal  c. protection from debris  d. refueling safety
3	. Pressure-relief valves should be directed upward at a degree angle wher the forklift cylinder is mounted horizontally. a. 30 b. 45 c. 60 d. 90
4	Relief valves on forklift cylinders must be replaced within years of the cylinder's manufacture date and every 10 years thereafter.  a. 5  b. 7  c. 12  d. 18
5	Leaks, cracks, or bulging are often discovered during a cylinder inspection. a. pre-fill b. tare weight c. operational d. post-fill
6	Tare weight is required when calculating cylinder filling by  a. volume  b. weight  c. outage gauge  d. OPD

7.	When filling forklift cylinders by weight, it is important to:
	a. Close the fixed maximum liquid level gauge.
	b. Weigh the cylinder halfway through the filling process.
	c. Verify that the cylinder is not overfilled at the conclusion of the filling process.
	d. Position the cylinder with the relief valve in the liquid space of the cylinder.
	When filling cylinders by weight, the is used to determine that the cylinder has reached its maximum permitted filling level.  a. float gauge  b. scale  c. locating pin  d. OPD
9.	The fixed maximum liquid level gauge is when filling a forklift cylinder by volume.
	a. opened
	b. closed
	c. tightened
	d. loosened
	When filling forklift cylinders by volume, once a white mist is emitted from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, the must be immediately shut off.  a. pump  b. gauge  c. hose end valve  d. dispenser
11.	When changing out a forklift cylinder, the cylinder service valve should
	be prior to making the hose connection to the cylinder.
	a. lubricated
	b. closed
	c. opened
	d. replaced
12.	The locating pin on the forklift is used to
	a. determine whether the cylinder is full
	b. determine the age of the cylinder
	c. properly position the cylinder on the forklift
	d. maintain the pressure in the cylinder

## Module 7 Quiz: Refueling Motorhomes and Other Vehicle-Mounted ASME Tanks

Ι.	specifications.
	a. DOT
	b. ASME
	c. NFPA
	d. NPGA
2.	All vehicle-mounted ASME tanks are equipped with a(n)
	a. ASME data plate
	b. fixed maximum liquid level gauge
	c. relief valve
	d. All of the above
3.	If the data plate is missing from an ASME tank, it cannot be filled.
	a. True
	b. False
4.	All ignition sources must be at least feet from the fill connection
	a. 10
	b. 25
	c. 40
	d. 55
5.	Motorhome and catering truck tanks are used to supply propane
	appliances; therefore, appliance pilots and electronic ignition systems
	must be before beginning the filling operation.
	a. inspected
	b. turned off
	c. turned on
	d. leak checked

6. While filling ASME tanks, and a white mist appears from the fixed
maximum liquid level gauge, immediately close the
a. fixed maximum liquid level gauge
b. service valve
c. hose end valve
d. pump
7. The is used to determine when the tank has been adequately filled.
a. float gauge
b. fixed maximum liquid level gauge
c. rotary gauge
d. relief valve
8. Which of the following should be completed immediately after the filling process?
a. Check for leaks with a non-corrosive leak detector solution.
b. Relight the customer's pilot lights.
c. Verify that appliance pilots have been extinguished.
d. Inspect the tank data plate.

#### **Module 8 Quiz: Dispensing Propane Safely for Mowers**

1.	Responsibilities of an operator who refuels propane mowers include  a. understanding the inspections, operation, and regulations that apply to the dispensing equipment
	<ul> <li>b. making sure that the correct type of cylinder is being used on the mower</li> <li>c. filling cylinders to their proper levels and preventing them from being overfilled</li> <li>d. All of the above</li> </ul>
2.	Which of the following is not commonly found on a propane mower cylinder?  a. Pressure-relief valve  b. Air intake valve  c. Fixed maximum liquid level gauge
	d. Liquid or vapor service valve
3.	Which of the following statements is false?  a. Mower-specific cylinders have a left-hand thread and a vapor service valve.  b. Mowers that use forklift cylinders have a right-hand thread and a liquid service valve.  c. The service valve should be approximately 80% open when the cylinder is in use.  d. Service valves have an internal check valve to prevent fuel from leaving the cylinder.
4.	Before filling a cylinder, verify that it is a propane cylinder by  a. checking to see if it has a service valve  b. reviewing the cylinder design code specification markings on the cylinder  c. inspecting the warning labels on the cylinder  d. checking the bottom of the cylinder for an "approved for propane use" stamp
5.	The two methods to fill a cylinder are by  a. weight and volume  b. weight and temperature  c. temperature and volume  d. None of the above
6.	All cylinders must be filled outdoors or in an approved filling area.  a. True  b. False
7.	Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be put on before filling or exchanging a cylinder.

b. False

8.	Which of the following	is NOT	a step to	determine	the total	filled	weight of	:
	a cylinder?							

- a. Check the water capacity and tare weight stamped on the cylinder or its protective collar.
- b. Determine the propane capacity using the formula: propane capacity (lb) = water capacity (lb) X .42
- c. Multiply the propane capacity by .8 to determine the total filled weight.
- d. Add the tare weight and propane capacity together to determine the total filled weight of a cylinder.
- 9. If filling a cylinder by volume, the cylinder will be full when \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. white mist begins to escape from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge
  - b. the dispenser pump automatically turns off
  - c. liquid propane begins to escape from the service valve
  - d. All of the above
- 10. For a cylinder that is installed horizontally on a mower, the pressure-relief valve should be set at the \_\_\_\_\_ position.
  - a. 3 o'clock
  - b. 6 o'clock
  - c. 9 o'clock
  - d. 12 o'clock

# Module 9 Quiz: Dispensing Propane Autogas

1.	Propane autogas dispensing systems typically use aa. gasoline-style, low-emission nozzle	to fuel the vehicle
	b. gasoline-style, high-emission nozzle	
	c. welding-style nozzle	
	d. fire hose-style nozzle	
2.	Make sure there are no ignition sources within feet a. 5 b. 25 c. 80	of the filling area.
	d. 1000	
3.	You should know your facility's fire prevention and emergen plans, including where and how to operate the emergency sa. True  b. False	•
4.	Propane autogas-fueled vehicles are required to have a prolocated	pane decal
	a. on the passenger-side window	
	b. on the left side of the front bumper	
	c. on the lower-right rear of the vehicle, above the bumper	
	d. on the lower-right rear of the vehicle, attached to the bumper	
5.	Before beginning the refueling process, what should you do a. Turn off the vehicle.	?
	b. Do not smoke, strike matches, or light a cigarette lighter.	
	c. Touch a grounded object to control static electricity. d. All of the above	
6.	The dispenser operator does NOT need to be present during filling procedure.	the entire
	a. True	
	b. False	

- 7. If a nozzle with a threaded connection is being used, it must be firmly attached and properly threaded before beginning the filling process.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 8. What safety device automatically stops the flow of fuel into the tank when it is filled?
  - a. O-ring on the filler valve
  - b. Filler valve flap
  - c. Overfill prevention device (OPD)
  - d. Filler nozzle ball valve

# **Module A1 Quiz: Composite Cylinders**

1.	Composite cylinders are made from a combination of
	a. fiberglass or carbon fibers and a plastic resin
	b. steel and aluminum
	c. aluminum and plastic
	d. titanium and aluminum
2.	on composite cylinders are identical to those used on steel or
	aluminum cylinders.
	a. Foot rings
	b. Collars
	c. Service and fill connections
	d. Cylinder markings
3.	Do NOT expose composite cylinders to temperatures higher than degrees (F)
	a. 98
	b. 120
	c. 149
	d. 212
4.	are required to be present at the dispensing facility before a
	composite cylinder can be filled.
	a. Special filling equipment and nozzles
	b. DOT special permits
	c. Special hoses
	d. Special fire extinguishers

# Module A2 Quiz: Retail Cylinder Exchange Operations

Full or empty cylinders can  a. always b. sometimes c. only under special conditions d. never	be stored or permitted	indoors.
Areas where more than poun must be provided with an approved por a. 500 b. 670 c. 720 d. 840		d in one location
Fire extinguishers are used primarily or a. electrical b. oil c. propane d. combustible	n fires.	
Cylinders awaiting resale must be store a. vertical and upright b. horizontal c. secured d. upside-down	d in a(n)	_ position.
Cylinders must be stored with the relief the container. a. liquid b. odorized c. vapor d. vertical	valve in the	space of
Stored cylinders must be at least fuel dispensers. a. 5 b. 10 c. 15 d. 20	feet away from gas s	tation

7. Cabinets must be placed at least feet from doorways of public buildings.			
a. 5			
b. 10			
c. 15			
d. 20			
8. Empty exchange cylinders should be handled in the same manner as			
cylinders.			
a. defective			
b. operating			
c. open			
d. full			



# Module Quizzes Answer Keys

# Modules 1–2 Answer Key: Introduction to Dispensing Propane Safely, and Properties and Characteristics of Propane

- 1. Which is NOT a responsibility of a propane dispenser operator?
  - a. Understanding the regulations and operations of the dispensing equipment
  - b. Repairing defective and damaged cylinders
  - c. Inspecting customer cylinders and containers to ensure they are safe for filling
  - d. Filling containers to their proper levels and preventing them from being overfilled
- 2. Important safety tips to tell customers before transporting propane cylinders include:
  - a. Always transport and store a cylinder in a secure and upright position so it will not fall, shift, or roll.
  - b. Never keep a filled cylinder inside a hot vehicle.
  - c. Always proceed directly to your destination and immediately remove the cylinder from your vehicle.
  - d. All of the above
- 3. What is an SDS?
  - a. A detailed procedure for inspecting propane containers
  - b. A detailed procedure for filling propane cylinders
  - c. An information bulletin that alerts you to properties and health hazards of propane

leak

d. A consumer safety information packet

4.		is added to propane to increase the likelihood that a
	will be detected.	•
	a. Moisture	
	b. An identifying colo	or
	c. Additional vapor	
	d. Odorant	
5.	In order to allow fo	r liquid expansion, propane containers are typically
	filled to% of	their capacity.
	a. 25	
	b. 40	
	c. 65	
	d. 80	

	opane liquid released into the air will expand to 2.15	times its original volume.
b.	9.6	
C.	270	
d.	350	
7. Th	ne proper mixture of propane vapor, air, and	is needed
fo	or propane to burn.	
a.	nitrogen	
b.	humidity	
C.	odorant	
d.	an ignition source	
8. If <sub> </sub>	propane liquid comes in contact with your skin, it can ca	ause
a.	a rash	
b.	frostbite or freeze burns	
C.	redness similar to a sunburn	
d.	a slight irritation	
9. Gl	oves and other PPE are required when filling containers of liquid propane.	because of the
a.	refrigerating effect (potential for freeze burns)	
b.	vaporization rate	
C.	expansion properties	
d.	toxicity	
10. In	the event of an uncontrolled propane leak or fire, what s	should you do?
a.	Shut down the dispenser if safe to do so.	
b.	Evacuate the area immediately.	
C.	Call for help.	
d.	All of the above	

#### Module 3 Answer Key: Dispensing Station Equipment

1	L. Most propane dispensers include a(n) to the dispensing equipment.	that supplies propane
	a. metering system	
	b. platform scale	
	c. scale	
	d. ASME storage tank	
2	2. The two common types of propane dispensing s	et-ups include horizontal
	tank dispensers and	
	a. underground tank dispensers	
	b. mobile tank dispensers	
	c. vertical tank dispensers	
	d. round tank dispensers	
3	3 control the flow of propane through the	e piping system of a dispenser.
	a. Valves	
	b. Plugs	
	c. Gears	
	d. Meters	
4	I. Most dispensers have a(n) to stop the fl	low of propane in an emergency.
	a. alarm	
	b. OPD	
	c. shutdown system	
	d. hose-end valve	
5	5. When preparing the dispenser for use,	open the liquid outlet
	valve and the first downstream manual valve.	
	a. slowly	
	b. quickly	
	c. halfway	
	d. None of the above	
6	6. When the operator is not in attendance, the disp	penser should be
	a. maintained and lubricated	
	b. shut down and secured	
	c. calibrated and cleaned	
	d. opened to the public	

# **Module 4 Answer Key: DOT Cylinders**

1.	The is a wide metal band welded or brazed to the bottom of the
	cylinder and used to protect the cylinder body from corrosion or damage.
	a. valve opening
	b. OPD
	c. pressure-relief valve
	d. foot ring
2.	An OPD serves as a
	a. primary means of preventing overfilling of cylinders
	b. secondary means of preventing overfilling of cylinders
	c. means of protection for the cylinder valves
	d. handle for lifting the cylinder
3.	To protect the valves, portable cylinders use a
	a. collar
	b. NTP fitting
	c. foot ring
	d. OPD
4.	Which of the following indicates the weight of the cylinder when empty?
	a. Water capacity
	b. Requalification date
	c. Design code
	d. Tare weight
5.	Which of the following is typically NOT the responsibility of a propane
	dispenser operator?
	a. Pre-fill visual check
	b. Scale calibration
	c. Cylinder requalification
	d. Customer education
6.	Cylinders may NOT be filled if they are past their date.
	a. annual inspection
	b. requalification
	c. maintenance test
	d. DOT fitness

Before a cylinder can be filled or refilled, DOT regulations require ato verify it is fit for continued service.		
a. visual check		
b. requalification		
c. cylinder stress test		
d. purging		
8. Prior to inspecting a cylinder, you should to help spot any problems.		
a. wash the cylinder with soap and water		
b. open the service valve		
c. remove any plastic or paper sleeves		
d. All of the above		
9. Problems that prevent filling a cylinder include:		
a. Cracks or leaks		
b. Bulging, denting, or gouging		
c. Out-of-date requalification		
d. All of the above		
10. A blue-green stain on the brass portion of the cylinder valve is evidence that		
it has been in contact with		
a. methanol		
b. anhydrous ammonia		
c. ethyl mercaptan		
d. polyethylene		
11. Which of the following problems can be caused by cylinders NOT properly		
purged of air or moisture?		
a. Fading of the odorant in the cylinder		
b. Unusually low service pressures		
c. Regulator overheating		
d. Inaccurate weight when filling		
12. DOT requires that all cylinders be clearly labeled with		
a. consumer and warning information		
b. valve size and propane capacity		
c. NFPA 704 information and storage tips		
d. shipping name and hazard class		

13	Consumer information/warning labels must be on all portable refillable cylinders of pounds propane capacity or less not filled on site. a. 20 b. 33 c. 45
	d. 100
14.	Many jurisdictions limit closed-bodied vehicles such as passenger cars and vans to a maximum of pounds propane capacity, with no single container having a capacity of more than pounds.  a. 80, 30  b. 90, 45  c. 100, 50  d. 150, 75
15.	If a cylinder warning label is NOT legible or if the paper or plastic sleeve is removed during inspection,
16	New cylinders that have NOT been vacuum-purged by the manufacturer and cylinders that have been opened to the atmosphere must be prior to filling.  a. reconditioned b. repainted c. purged of air or moisture d. requalified

#### Module 5 Answer Key: Filling Small Cylinders

Only use fire extinguishers to create an escape route — NOT to fight a proparties.      False	ane fire.
<ul> <li>2. Before operating a filling station, ensure there are no ignition sources with feet of the points of transfer.</li> <li>a. 5</li> <li>b. 10</li> <li>c. 25</li> <li>d. 50</li> </ul>	in
<ul> <li>3. Before starting the cylinder filling operation, which of the following steps must you always follow?</li> <li>a. Do not allow unauthorized people in the filling area.</li> <li>b. Always put on appropriate personal protective equipment.</li> <li>c. Inspect all cylinder filling equipment before use.</li> <li>d. All of the above</li> </ul>	
<ol> <li>Because platform scales have built-in safety features, it is not necessary t make sure the scale is clear of debris or obstructions before use.</li> <li>a. True</li> <li>b. False</li> </ol>	0
<ul> <li>5. Always verify the cylinder you are preparing to fill is a propane cylinder by reviewing the design code specification markings on the cylinder.</li> <li>a. True</li> <li>b. False</li> </ul>	
6. Container water capacity is multiplied by% when determining propane capacity.  a. 24  b. 36  c. 42  d. 58	

7.	When filling a cylinder by weight, the scale set point should equal the
	a. tare weight + propane capacity (lb)
	b. tare weight + propane capacity (lb) + hose and fitting weight
	c. propane capacity (lb) + hose and fitting weight
	d. tare weight + propane capacity (lb) - hose weight
8.	. After filling the cylinder, you need to to complete the job.
	a. check for leaks using an approved method
	b. reinstall appropriate valve caps and plugs
	c. apply any required labels if missing or not legible
	d. All of the above
9.	When filling a cylinder by volume using the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, the filling process relies on the to determine when the maximum permitted filling limit for a cylinder is reached.  a. sensor  b. trip lever  c. operator  d. control valve
LO.	When filling a cylinder by volume and a white mist begins to escape from the
	fixed maximum liquid level gauge, you need to immediately
	a. shut off the pump
	b. check for leaks
	c. close the hose end valve
	d. close the service valve

# Module 6 Answer Key: Refueling, Maintaining, and Troubleshooting Forklift Cylinders

1.	Forklift cylinders typically hold pounds of propane. a. 20 b. 33
	c. 45
	d. 100
2.	The purpose of the O-ring inside the forklift connector is to provide  a. weather protection
	b. a gas-tight seal
	c. protection from debris
	d. refueling safety
3.	Pressure-relief valves should be directed upward at a degree angle when the forklift cylinder is mounted horizontally.  a. 30
	b. 45
	c. 60
	d. 90
4.	Relief valves on forklift cylinders must be replaced within years of the cylinder's manufacture date and every 10 years thereafter.  a. 5
	b. 7
	c. 12
	d. 18
5.	Leaks, cracks, or bulging are often discovered during a cylinderinspection.
	a. pre-fill
	b. tare weight
	c. operational
	d. post-fill
6.	Tare weight is required when calculating cylinder filling by
	a. volume
	b. weight
	c. outage gauge
	d. OPD

7.	When filling forklift cylinders by weight, it is important to:  a. Close the fixed maximum liquid level gauge.  b. Weigh the cylinder halfway through the filling process.  c. Verify that the cylinder is not overfilled at the conclusion of the filling process.  d. Position the cylinder with the relief valve in the liquid space of the cylinder.
8.	When filling cylinders by weight, the is used to determine that the cylinder has reached its maximum permitted filling level.  a. float gauge  b. scale  c. locating pin  d. OPD
9.	The fixed maximum liquid level gauge is when filling a forklift cylinder by volume.  a. opened b. closed c. tightened d. loosened
10.	When filling forklift cylinders by volume, once a white mist is emitted from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge, the must be immediately shut off.  a. pump  b. gauge  c. hose end valve  d. dispenser
11.	When changing out a forklift cylinder, the cylinder service valve should be prior to making the hose connection to the cylinder.  a. lubricated  b. closed  c. opened  d. replaced
12.	The locating pin on the forklift is used to  a. determine whether the cylinder is full  b. determine the age of the cylinder  c. properly position the cylinder on the forklift  d. maintain the pressure in the cylinder

# Module 7 Answer Key: Refueling Motorhomes and Other Vehicle-Mounted ASME Tanks

1.	Permanently mounted tanks used in motorhomes are built to specifications.			
	a. DOT			
	b. ASME			
	c. NFPA			
	d. NPGA			
2.	All vehicle-mounted ASME tanks are equipped with a(n)			
	a. ASME data plate			
	b. fixed maximum liquid level gauge			
	c. relief valve			
	d. All of the above			
3.	If the data plate is missing from an ASME tank, it cannot be filled.			
	a. True			
	b. False			
4.	All ignition sources must be at least feet from the fill connection.			
	a. 10			
	b. 25			
	c. 40			
	d. 55			
5.	Motorhome and catering truck tanks are used to supply propane			
	appliances; therefore, appliance pilots and electronic ignition systems			
	must be before beginning the filling operation.			
	a. inspected			
	b. turned off			
	c. turned on			
	d. leak checked			

6. While filling ASME tanks, and a white mist appears from the fixed					
maximum liqui	id level gauge, immediately close the				
a. fixed maximum liquid level gauge					
b. service valve					
c. hose end valv	e				
d. pump					
7. The	_ is used to determine when the tank has been adequately filled.				
a. float gauge					
b. fixed maximu	ım liquid level gauge				
c. rotary gauge					
d. relief valve					
8. Which of the fo	ollowing should be completed immediately after the filling process?				
a. Check for lead	ks with a non-corrosive leak detector solution.				
b. Relight the cu	stomer's pilot lights.				
c. Verify that app	oliance pilots have been extinguished.				
d. Inspect the ta	nk data plate.				

#### Module 8 Answer Key: Dispensing Propane Safely for Mowers

1.	Responsibilities of an operator who refuels propane mowers include
	a. understanding the inspections, operation, and regulations that apply to the dispensing equipment
	b. making sure that the correct type of cylinder is being used on the mower
	c. filling cylinders to their proper levels and preventing them from being overfilled
	d. All of the above
2.	Which of the following is not commonly found on a propane mower cylinder?
	a. Pressure-relief valve
	b. Air intake valve
	c. Fixed maximum liquid level gauge
	d. Liquid or vapor service valve
3.	Which of the following statements is false?
	a. Mower-specific cylinders have a left-hand thread and a vapor service valve.
	b. Mowers that use forklift cylinders have a right-hand thread and a liquid service valve.
	c. The service valve should be approximately 80% open when the cylinder is in use.
	d. Service valves have an internal check valve to prevent fuel from leaving the cylinder.
4.	Before filling a cylinder, verify that it is a propane cylinder by
	a. checking to see if it has a service valve
	b. reviewing the cylinder design code specification markings on the cylinder
	c. inspecting the warning labels on the cylinder
	d. checking the bottom of the cylinder for an "approved for propane use" stamp
5.	The two methods to fill a cylinder are by
	a. weight and volume
	b. weight and temperature
	c. temperature and volume
	d. None of the above
6.	All cylinders must be filled outdoors or in an approved filling area.
	a. True
	b. False
7.	Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be put on before filling
	or exchanging a cylinder.
	a Truo

b. False

8.	Which of the following is NOT a step to determine the total filled weight of $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,n\right\}$
	a cylinder?
	a. Check the water capacity and tare weight stamped on the cylinder or its protect

tive collar.

b.	Determine the	e prop	ane	capaci	ty using	the	formul	a
	propane capa	city (I	b] =	water	capacity	[lb]	X .42	

- c. Multiply the propane capacity by .8 to determine the total filled weight.
- d. Add the tare weight and propane capacity together to determine the total filled weight of a cylinder.
- 9. If filling a cylinder by volume, the cylinder will be full when \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. white mist begins to escape from the fixed maximum liquid level gauge
  - b. the dispenser pump automatically turns off
  - c. liquid propane begins to escape from the service valve
  - d. All of the above
- 10. For a cylinder that is installed horizontally on a mower, the pressure-relief valve should be set at the \_\_\_\_\_ position.
  - a. 3 o'clock
  - b. 6 o'clock
  - c. 9 o'clock
  - d. 12 o'clock

# Module 9 Answer Key: Dispensing Propane Autogas

1.	Propane autogas dispensing systems typically use a	to fuel the vehicle.
	a. gasoline-style, low-emission nozzle	
	b. gasoline-style, high-emission nozzle	
	c. welding-style nozzle	
	d. fire hose-style nozzle	
2.	Make sure there are no ignition sources within feet	of the filling area.
	a. 5	
	b. 25	
	c. 80	
	d. 1000	
3.	You should know your facility's fire prevention and emergen	•
	plans, including where and how to operate the emergency s	snutuown system.
	a. True	
	b. False	
4.	Propane autogas-fueled vehicles are required to have a pro	pane decal
	located	
	a. on the passenger-side window	
	b. on the left side of the front bumper	
	c. on the lower-right rear of the vehicle, above the bumper	
	d. on the lower-right rear of the vehicle, attached to the bumper	
5.	Before beginning the refueling process, what should you do	1?
	a. Turn off the vehicle.	
	b. Do not smoke, strike matches, or light a cigarette lighter.	
	c. Touch a grounded object to control static electricity.	
	d. All of the above	
6.	The dispenser operator does NOT need to be present during	g the entire
	filling procedure.	-
	a. True	
	b. False	

- 7. If a nozzle with a threaded connection is being used, it must be firmly attached and properly threaded before beginning the filling process.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 8. What safety device automatically stops the flow of fuel into the tank when it is filled?
  - a. O-ring on the filler valve
  - b. Filler valve flap
  - c. Overfill prevention device (OPD)
  - d. Filler nozzle ball valve

# **Module A1 Answer Key: Composite Cylinders**

1.	Composite cylinders are made from a combination of
	a. fiberglass or carbon fibers and a plastic resin
	b. steel and aluminum
	c. aluminum and plastic
	d. titanium and aluminum
2.	on composite cylinders are identical to those used on steel or
	aluminum cylinders.
	a. Foot rings
	b. Collars
	c. Service and fill connections
	d. Cylinder markings
3.	. Do NOT expose composite cylinders to temperatures higher than degrees (F)
	a. 98
	b. 120
	c. 149
	d. 212
4.	are required to be present at the dispensing facility before a
	composite cylinder can be filled.
	a. Special filling equipment and nozzles
	b. DOT special permits
	c. Special hoses
	d. Special fire extinguishers

# Module A2 Answer Key: Retail Cylinder Exchange Operations

1.	Full or empty cylinders can      a. always     b. sometimes	be stored or permitted	I indoors.
	c. only under special conditions d. <b>never</b>		
2.	2. Areas where more than p must be provided with an approved a. 500 b. 670 c. <b>720</b> d. 840		
3.	<ul><li>3. Fire extinguishers are used primarilent</li><li>a. electrical</li><li>b. oil</li><li>c. propane</li><li>d. combustible</li></ul>	y on fires.	
4.	<ul><li>4. Cylinders awaiting resale must be st</li><li>a. vertical and upright</li><li>b. horizontal</li><li>c. secured</li><li>d. upside-down</li></ul>	tored in a(n)	_ position.
5.	<ul><li>5. Cylinders must be stored with the rethe container.</li><li>a. liquid</li><li>b. odorized</li><li>c. vapor</li><li>d. vertical</li></ul>	elief valve in the	space of
6.	<ul> <li>6. Stored cylinders must be at least</li> <li>fuel dispensers.</li> <li>a. 5</li> <li>b. 10</li> <li>c. 15</li> <li>d. 20</li> </ul>	feet away from g	as station

7. Cabinets must be placed at least	feet from doorways of public buildings.
a. 5	
b. 10	
c. 15	
d. 20	
8. Empty exchange cylinders should be h	andled in the same manner as
cylinders.	
a. defective	
b. operating	
c. open	
d. full	

