



Orange County Fire Authority Community Risk Reduction INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 09-99

Subject: Exchange Stations for Portable Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Section will apply the following requirements to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) container exchange stations. These exchange stations are generally located at retail occupancies and allow customers to exchange used LPG containers for reconditioned, full LPG containers.

1. Prior to installing an LPG container exchange station, contact OCFA Prevention Field Services (PFS) Section to receive a no-fee permit for up to 125 gallons of LPG (note: fees apply for >125 gallons). An operational permit is required for the storage of LPG. CFC 6101.2 and 105.6.27
2. All used LPG containers shall be considered full for determining permit amounts and storage requirements. CFC 6109.5
3. Containers shall be available only to authorized personnel, secured in a lockable, naturally ventilated metal cabinet which is located to minimize exposure to heat, physical damage, and tampering. CFC 6109.2 and 6109.15
4. LPG container storage cabinets shall be located on the exterior of the building at least 5 feet from LPG dispensing stations, at least 20 feet from motor vehicle fuel dispensers, and at least 5 feet from doors, windows, and other openings of buildings with at least 2 exits or at least 10 feet from openings of buildings with only 1 exit. CFC 6109.9 and 6109.12
5. Weeds, grass, brush, trash, and other combustible materials shall be kept at least 10 feet from LPG container cabinets. CFC Table 6107.3
6. LPG containers shall be stored in the upright position with the pressure relief valve at the top of the container. CFC 6109.3
7. A sign shall be posted on the outside of the customer entrance door to the building stating, "DO NOT BRING LP-GAS CYLINDERS INTO THE BUILDING" and an emergency contact information sign shall be posted within 10 feet of the LPG container storage cabinet. CFC 6109.15
8. Screw-on type caps or collars that are securely in place shall protect valves on all containers stored. CFC 6109.8
9. An approved NFPA 704 placard (1-4-0) and a "NO SMOKING" sign shall be posted on the LPG container storage cabinet. CFC 5003.5 and 6107.2
10. All electrical equipment contained inside or within 5 feet of a cabinet storing cylinders or electronics associated with an automated vending system, shall comply with the requirements for Class I, Division 2 equipment in accordance with the California Electrical Code. CFC 6109.15.1

Questions regarding specific applications should be addressed to OCFA PFS staff: 714-573-6000