



COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
Division of the Fire Marshal
Administrative Ruling/Interpretation

Number:	2011- 002		
Subject:	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-gas); Storage of Portable LP-Gas Containers Awaiting Use or Resale; or Cylinders Part of a Cylinder Exchange Program		
Reference:	International Fire Code (IFC) 2009, as amended, Sections 105.6.27 and 105.7.10, 3801.2 and 3809		
Effective Date:	August 1, 2011	Issued By:	Kay Yeager, Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator
Revision Date:		Revised By:	
Approval Date:	August 1, 2011	Approved By:	Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal

PURPOSE: To establish specific quantity-based permit amounts for LP-gas cylinder exchange programs and for the storage and use of portable LP-gas containers at commercial and consumer use sites.

SCOPE: To define permit quantities and requirements under Sections: Required operational permits 105.6.27, Required Construction Permits 105.7.10, and Permits 3801.2 of the IFC 2009, as amended. Permits shall be required as set forth in Sections 105.6.27 and 105.7.10.

DEFINITION:

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-gas). A material which is composed predominantly of the following hydrocarbons or mixtures of them: propane, propylene, butane (normal butane or isobutane) and butylenes.

LP-Gas Container. Any vessel, including cylinders, tanks, portable tanks and cargo tanks, used for transporting or storing LP-gases.

Portable Container. A container designed to be moved readily, as opposed to a container designed for stationary installations. Source: NFPA 58, 2011 ed.

LP-Gas Systems. An assembly consisting of one or more containers with a means for conveying LP-gas from a container to dispensing or consuming devices that incorporates components that control the quantity, flow, pressure, and physical state (liquid or vapor) of the LP-gas. Source: NFPA 58, 2011 ed.

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: An operational permit is required for storage and use of LP-gas. As written, the IFC 2009 Sections 105.6.27, 105.7.10 and 3801.2 do not provide quantity-based permit limits. This is vague and can require permits for any amount.

This limitless quantity is unreasonable and will impose undue burden to citizens, the business community and the fire official.

DECISION: By defining quantity-based criteria for these permit activities, we feel that we will eliminate undue costs and complexity while retaining the current standard of care and safeguards for LP-gas storage and use. These provisions are in the public interest by continuing community and emergency responder safety.

LP-gas Cylinder Exchange Programs

A permit is required to install one or more LP-gas cabinets associated with a cylinder exchange program. This shall include all occupancies where LP-gas is stored, used or handled as part of a cylinder exchange program. Containers that are filled, partially filled or empty shall be considered as full containers.

Storage of LP-Gas Containers and LP-Gas Systems (Permanent or Temporary Installation)

A permit is required to install, maintain, store, use or dispense LP-gas where a single container, cylinder or tank is more than 125-gallons water capacity or the aggregate capacity of containers is more than 125-gallons water capacity. Containers that are filled, partially filled or empty shall be considered as full containers.

The Division of the Fire Marshal reserves the right to modify or delete any portion of this policy as necessary for the safe design and installation of LP-gas systems.

All mandated changes will be provided in writing so as to inform all affected parties and individuals

Approved by:

Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal