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Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Standards Division

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Director

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TO: All North Carolina County Fair and Carnival Concessionaires and Exhibitors

FROM: Richard G. Fredenburg, LP-Gas Engineer

All LP-Gas (propane) installations at North Carolina county fairs and carnivals must be in accordance with the North Carolina LP-Gas Law and Regulations. The requirements of this safety standard include, but are not limited to:

- (1) All LP-Gas containers must be maintained as required in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 58 (NFPA 58), 2011 Edition, the *LP-Gas Code*, including being properly painted to prevent corrosion, being in sound condition, and being requalified if more than 12 years old and so marked and visible. OPD requirements apply in North Carolina.
- (2) Installed or stored containers will be upright and secured with suitable restraints to prevent tipping over.
- (3) Containers not connected into service will have the service valve plugged or the regulator capped, or, if the valve is the Acme-thread type, the valve will not be plugged but may have a dust cap.
- (4) All containers will sit on concrete, asphalt, brick, solid wood blocks, or masonry blocks or in a container, such as a "milk crate," to avoid contact with the ground and to provide a stable footing.
- (5) Containers shall not be stored in any building, booth, tent, or unventilated vehicle. However, containers having a maximum LP-Gas capacity of 5 lb. may be used inside buildings for public exhibitions or demonstrations. If more than one such container is located in a room, the containers shall be separated by at least 20 ft. Routine preparation of food is not considered to be a demonstration or exhibition.
- (6) All containers filled in place will be located so the **fill valve is 10 feet from any ignition source**, or is separated from any ignition source by a vapor-proof barrier to provide 10 feet of separation. If the container is filled only when ignition sources are shut down, the separation may be reduced to 5 feet. **Relief valves must be at least 5 feet from any ignition source.**
- (7) All valves, hoses, and piping material will be suitable for LP-Gas service. **Hoses must be marked as LP-Gas approved.**
- (8) All piping shall be properly supported and, if necessary, protected from damage.

The above requirements, and any others which may be applicable, will normally be enforced by fire inspection personnel. If necessary, LP-Gas inspectors from our department can be provided. **Do not ask a gas supplier to violate the rules.**

Every year there are some concession operators who do not adequately plan their space requirements to include their propane tank(s). You may want to plan for additional gas hose or tubing to allow the tank(s) to go behind your booth. All separation requirements of the *LP-Gas Code* apply.