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BULLETIN 09-1

(Supersedes Bulletin 04-1)

Issued: March 2009 Code Ref. Update: September 2019
Subject: Permit Requirements for LP Gas Systems
Reference: N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14, Construction Permits -- When Required; N.J.A.C. 5:18-3.1, Standards Adopted by Reference/NFPA 58

A change was made to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 58 that will likely generate an increase in work on liquefied petroleum gas (LP-Gas) systems. The change requires that LP-Gas suppliers periodically recertify U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) propane cylinders. While the certification process can be done on site, we anticipate that most marketers will be removing the cylinder from the site to perform the recertification.

DOT cylinders range in size from 4.0 pounds to 420 pounds (1000 gallons water capacity). Cylinders in the upper end of this range are often used permanently at homes and small businesses to provide heating and/or cooking. We anticipate that, while recertifying cylinders, LP-Gas companies will engage in various levels of work to address issues that have arisen since the initial installation. The simplest type of work will be a like-for-like replacement of cylinders in the same location. However, LP-Gas marketers may also relocate cylinders because things that affect its safety have changed since the initial installation. For example, the installation of air-conditioning equipment, installation of new windows or doors, or new building additions can all have an effect on the code compliance of an installation. Changes such as the addition or removal of appliances over the years may also prompt the marketer to make a change to the installation. In an effort to promote uniformity in the permit requirements from municipality to municipality, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has created the attached tables that address what type of permits are required for what type of work.

For liquid systems (typically found at cylinder-filling locations) and for larger vapor systems (typically used for heating and cooking), the DCA has jurisdiction. The Bureau of Code Services' responsibility for vapor systems is based on system size. The system size is determined by the number of containers that are connected to a common piping system. The aggregate capacity of different systems on the site does not affect enforcement responsibility.

A pressure test need not be required for work that involves a limited number of joints which are outside and above ground. For example, replacing cylinders on the exterior of the building, adding a cylinder to an existing installation, and relocating a cylinder are all cases where joint soaping rather than pressure testing are appropriate.

In an effort to make the charts as comprehensive as possible, we have listed items that go beyond the scope of the cylinder recertification work.

Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Permit Requirements for LP-Gas Work

#	Description of Work	Classification of work	Container Plan review/inspection by ³ :	Vapor piping inside the building piping plan review /inspection by:	Notice of Propane Installation Required	Discussion
1	Replacement of regulators and pigtails	Ordinary maintenance	Not applicable	Not Applicable	No	This work is a like-for-like replacement and involves only limited exterior piping.
2	Like-for-like replacement of aboveground containers in vapor service of 125 gallons water capacity or less at the same location	Ordinary maintenance	Not applicable	Not Applicable	No	This work is similar to what is done in a cylinder-exchange delivery.
3	Like-for-like replacement of permanently installed aboveground containers in vapor service over 125 gallons water capacity but under 2,001 gallons water capacity	Minor work	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Not Applicable	No	For the purpose of the table, this work does not include any interior piping.
4	Like-for-like replacement of permanently installed underground containers in vapor service under 2,001 gallons	Full Permit	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Not Applicable	No	For the purpose of the table, this work does not include any interior piping.
5	Like-for-like replacement of permanently installed aboveground or underground containers in vapor service 2,001 gallons or over	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	DCA/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit (609) 633-6835	Not Applicable	No	For the purpose of the table, this work does not include any interior piping.
6	Moving a single container of 125 gallon water capacity or less in vapor service from one location to another with or without a change in size	Minor work	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	No	This work may introduce code violations such as distances to buildings, wall openings, sources of ignition, or property lines. However, because cylinders can be readily moved, minor work is appropriate.

Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Permit Requirements for LP-Gas Work

#	Description of Work	Classification of work	Container Plan review/inspection by ³ :	Vapor piping inside the building piping plan review /inspection by:	Notice of Propane Installation Required	Discussion
7	Changing the size of an aboveground container in vapor service where the replacement container is under 125 gallons water capacity and the aggregate amount of storage for the system is less than 501 gallons water capacity	Minor work	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	No	A permit is required to check to make sure the tank is appropriate. For the sizes listed, the installation should not cause any new violations of the distance requirements in the code.
8	Changing the size of an aboveground container in vapor service at the same location if the replacement container is over 125 but under 2001 gallons water capacity or if the replacement container increases the aggregate capacity of the system so that it is over 501 but less than 2,001 gallons	Full Permit	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	No	This work may introduce code violations such as too close to a building, property line, ignition sources, or building openings. Containers of this size cannot be readily moved, so a plan review prior to installation is required.
9	Changing the size of a vapor service aboveground container at the same location if the replacement container is 2,001 or more gallons water capacity or if the replacement container increases the aggregate capacity of the system so that it is 2001 gallons or over	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	DCA/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit (609) 633-6835	Not applicable	No	For the purpose of the table, this work does not include any interior piping.
10	Changing the number of vapor service containers at a location provided that aggregate capacity of the system as altered is less than 501 gallons water capacity	Minor work	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	No	Unlike other items that are ordinary maintenance, this involves a significant change in piping arrangement; but for the given size, should not cause violations of the distance from building or property-line requirements.

Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Permit Requirements for LP-Gas Work

#	Description of Work	Classification of work	Container Plan review/inspection by ³ :	Vapor piping inside the building piping plan review /inspection by:	Notice of Propane Installation Required	Discussion
11	Changing the number of vapor service containers in the same location where the aggregate capacity is over 501 but less than 2,001 gallons water capacity	Full Permit	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	No	This work may introduce code violations such as too close to a building, property line source of ignition, or building opening. Containers of this size cannot be readily moved, so a full permit is required.
12	Changing the number of vapor service containers in the same location where the aggregate capacity is 2,001 gallons water capacity or over	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	DCA/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit (609) 633-6835	Not applicable	No	For the purpose of the table, this work does not include any interior piping.
13	Installation of new vapor service systems under 2,001 gallons water capacity where there was none before (change from oil/electric to propane)	Full Permit	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode	No	A full permit is required and a pressure test must be performed prior to use.
14	Installation of new vapor service systems 2,001 gallons water capacity or more where there were none before (change from oil/electric to propane)	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	DCA/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit 609 633 -6835	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode ²	No	For these installations, if there is vapor piping to be installed in the building, it is the plumbing subcode official's responsibility from the outlet of the second stage regulator.
15	Installation of containers for liquid service, such as cylinder filling or vaporizer installations, regardless of size	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	DCA/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit 609 633 -6835	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode for vaporizer systems where there is vapor piping inside the building ²	No	The DCA is responsible for inspecting liquid piping inside the building.
16	Temporary Installation of vapor service containers 125 gallons water capacity or less	Outside the scope of the UCC	None	None	No	This is regulated by the local Fire Official.
17	Temporary Installation of vapor service systems over 125 gallons water capacity but less than 2,001 gallons water capacity	Full permit	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode ⁴	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode ⁴	No	These installations are generally found at construction sites. "System" refers to containers connected to a common piping system.

Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Permit Requirements for LP-Gas Work

#	Description of Work	Classification of work	Container Plan review/inspection by ³ :	Vapor piping inside the building piping plan review /inspection by:	Notice of Propane Installation Required	Discussion
18	Temporary Installation of vapor service containers or systems 2,001 gallons water capacity or more	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	None/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit (609) 633-6835	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode ²	Yes	These installations are generally found at construction sites. "System" refers to containers connected to a common piping system.
19	Temporary Installation of liquid service containers of any size	Outside the jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency	DCA/DCA ¹ DCA means the Department of Community Affairs LP-Gas Safety Unit (609) 633-6835	Plumbing Subcode/Plumbing Subcode for vaporizer systems where there is vapor piping inside the building ²	No	The DCA is responsible for inspecting liquid piping inside the building.
20	Replacement of LP-Gas stoves ovens, clothes dryers, and ranges	Ordinary maintenance	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No	There are usually no clearance to combustibles or venting issues.
21	Replacement of LP-Gas water heaters	Minor work or emergency work	Not Applicable	Plumbing Subcode for piping, Fire Protection Subcode for clearance to combustibles and venting or mechanical/plumbing inspector for single-family residential	No	This is designated as minor work in the UCC.
22	Replacement of LP-Gas boilers and furnaces	Full permit or emergency work	Not applicable	Plumbing Subcode for piping, Fire Protection Subcode for clearance to combustibles and venting or mechanical/plumbing inspector for single-family residential	No	This requires inspection of clearance to combustibles, venting, and proper electric and gas connections.
23	Installation of new appliances	Full permit	If the installation is in conjunction with the installation of a container, see above requirements for container installation	Plumbing Subcode for piping, Fire Protection Subcode for clearance to combustibles and venting or mechanical/plumbing inspector for single-family residential	No	This requires inspection of clearance to combustibles, venting, and proper electric and gas connections.

Notes:

1. For installations that are reviewed and inspection by the Department of Community Affairs, there are two approvals issued. When the plans for the installation are approved by the Department, a "Notice of Pre-Installation Approval" is sent to the local enforcing agency. When the installation has been inspected and approved, a copy of the Permit to Operate and Fill issued by the Department must be obtained prior to issuing a Certificate of Occupancy/Certificate of Approval.
2. Where there is vapor piping inside the building but the container is under the Department of Community Affairs' jurisdiction, the plumbing inspector inspects the pipe from the outlet of the second-stage pressure regulator to the various appliances installed. In some rare cases, there may only be one regulator installed. In those cases, jurisdiction of the local enforcing agency begins inside the building.
3. Containers must not be placed directly on the ground. Foot rings must be supported by masonry or other approved supports.
4. Temporary LP-Gas installations must be inspected for the following:
 - Location and protection of the container (including motor vehicle protection)
 - ASME label or DOT markings
 - Proper support
 - Proper shut-off valves and piping materials
 - Proper protection of piping from the tank to the appliance or building
 - Proper gas regulators
 - Proper labeling of the appliances served by the container