

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DIRECTIVE NO. 6 OF 1974

DATE: April 26, 1974

TO: Borough Superintendents
FROM: Thomas V. Burke, P.E., Director of Operations,
SUBJECT: STORAGE OF LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GAS

PURPOSE: This directive provides standards for both the outdoor and the indoor storage of specified amounts of liquified petroleum gas for use as fuel for material handling equipment, similar to hi-lows. Such storage, when it complies with the regulations and limitations contained herein, shall be considered as an incidental occupancy and therefore need not comply with the fire division and fire separation requirements of Article 2 of the Building Code or with the occupancy classification requirement of Article 3 of the same code. Whenever such storage exceeds the limitation described herein it shall comply with all requirements normally associated with High Hazard Occupancy Group A. In either event, in addition to requiring a Building Department permit, a Fire Department permit for the storage of combustibles must be obtained. Containers shall be stored outdoors unless outdoor storage space is not available. Criteria for the accessory storage of liquified petroleum gas for use as fuel for hi-low and similar material handling equipment are as follows:

1. OUTDOOR STORAGE

- a. No gas container is to exceed 1½ cubic feet in capacity.
- b. Storage shall be in either a non-combustible enclosure or an area surrounded by a substantial metal fence enclosure.
- c. The enclosed area shall not exceed 54 square feet in area and shall be adequately secured against access by unauthorized persons.
- d. Where the storage area is enclosed by a solid, incombustible fence, screened ventilation openings having an area of at least 1% of the enclosed floor space and located no closer than 5 feet from any building opening shall be provided at bottom of the fence.
- e. A sign shall be posted on the enclosure with letters at least 2 inches high, to read as follows:
"DANGER - L.P. GAS - KEEP FIRE OR FLAME AWAY - NO SMOKING"

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1. OUTDOOR STORAGE continued

- f. No combustible debris, grass or weeds shall be permitted to accumulate within 10 feet of the enclosure.
- g. Each cylinder valve shall be fully closed and fitted with a protective cap or steel collar at least 6 inches in diameter and 6 inches in height to protect such valve from impact or other mechanical injury.
- h. All valves shall be protected from accumulation of ice and snow.
- i. Enclosures shall be at least 5 feet from the lines of property occupied by schools, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, athletic fields, or other places of public gatherings.
- j. Such storage areas shall be permitted obstructions in any required front yard or rear yard, but shall not be permitted to be located within 10 feet of any means of egress, nor in any open area adjacent to Residence District boundaries that prohibit open storage of materials.

2. INDOOR STORAGE

- a. Rooms used for such storage shall be used exclusively for such storage and for no other purpose.
- b. The area of such room shall not exceed 45 square feet.
- c. The walls, floors, and ceilings of such rooms shall be constructed of materials having at least a two hour resistance rating.
- d. A portion of the exterior walls or roof having an area of not less than 10% of that of the combined area of enclosing walls and roof shall be single strength glass or similar explosion relieving construction.
- e. Each opening from the storage room to other part of the building shall be protected by a fireproof self-closing door having at least a 1½ hour fire resistance rating.
- f. Such rooms shall be ventilated at both top and bottom to the outside only by openings having an area of at least 1% of the floor area of the storage room and located not closer than 5 feet from any other opening in the same building.
- g. The floors of such rooms shall not be located below ground level and any space below the floor shall be filled solidly or shall be ventilated to outer air.

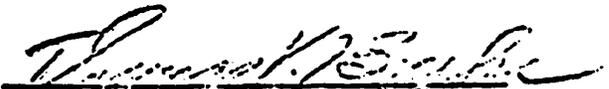
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2. INDOOR STORAGE continued

- h. Such rooms shall not be located on the line of adjoining property occupied by schools, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, athletic fields, or other places of public gatherings.
- i. All lights and switches shall be explosion proof.
- j. A sign shall be posted on the storage room, with letters at least 2 inches high, to read as follows:
"DANGER - L.P. GAS - KEEP FIRE OR FLAME AWAY - NO SMOKING".
- k. Plans for the construction of indoor storage rooms shall be filed with the Department of Buildings and a copy of the approved plans shall be filed with the Fire Commissioner by the owner or his representative.

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Thomas V. Burke, P.E.
Director of Operations

cc: Comm. J.T. Walsh, P.E.
Dep. Comm. A.J. Jenkins
Exec. staff