



Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) Guideline

INTRODUCTION

Hand sanitizer, or Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) is regulated by the Fire Code because it commonly has an alcohol content of at least 60-70%, which makes it a flammable liquid. Flammable liquid generates vapors that are easily ignitable and present a fire safety risk.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, building and business owners will need to provide and store on-premises more quantities of ABHR than in the past, the Fire Department allows the storage, handling and use of ABHR in accordance with the Fire Code.

Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) Product Packaging

ABHR comes in two types: *consumer-product (non-bulk) packaging* and *bulk packaging*. In order to minimize the fire safety risks, **the FDNY encourages the use of ABHR in consumer-product packaging. Consumer-product packaging minimizes the release of flammable vapors and production of static electricity.**

Storage and use of bulk ABHR is discouraged because of the fire safety risk associated with pouring or pumping of the flammable contents, including spills and the release of flammable vapors.

 <p>Consumer-product Packaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum capacity: 68 FL OZ AND do not need to transfer content from one container to another. • Spills are limited. • Less fire safety risk. • FDNY permit is required when the <u>total storage quantity exceeds 275 gallons</u>. 	 <p>Bulk Packaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity: more than 68 FL OZ AND/OR requires transferring content from one container to another. • Spills are possible. • Higher fire safety risk. • FDNY permit is required when the total storage quantity exceeds 5 gallons.
---	--	--	--

Each commercial tenant in a building with multiple commercial tenants must individually comply with ABHR permit and supervision requirements.

Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) Supervision Requirements

C-92 Certificate of Fitness holder is required when the total storage quantity of ABHR exceeds 275 gallons.

Storage of ABHR must be under general supervision of a C-92 Certificate of Fitness holder. This means that the Certificate of Fitness holder must ensure the safe storage of the ABHR containers but does not have to be on premises at all times.

Handling and Use of ABHR (including pouring, pumping or other transfer of ABHR) must be under personal supervision of a C-92 Certificate of Fitness holder. This means the Certificate of Fitness holder must be present on the premises to personally supervise the handling and use of the ABHR. (“use” does not include personal use of an ABHR dispenser for hand sanitizing.)

A C-92 Certificate of Fitness is not required to present on premises for handling and use of ABHR consumer-product packaging containers because the content is not poured/pumped into another container.

The Certificate of Fitness holder must maintain a daily record of the quantity of ABHR in storage in the building/occupancy and provide such information upon request.

Information about the C-92 Certificate of Fitness on the FDNY website, www.nyc.gov/fdny under the “Business” tab.

Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) Storage Requirements

All buildings and business owners must comply with the ABHR storage requirements:

- ABHR must be stored in a control area: fully enclosed fire-rated room or space. Approved fire-resistant metal cabinets may be used.
- All bulk ABHR must be stored in such a room or cabinet and any handling of ABHR from bulk containers (e.g. transferring it into dispensers) must be done in such a room.
- Bulk ABHR must be stored in separate control area(s) from the consumer-product ABHR.
- ABHR must be stored away from the route of egress and away from any heat source (including electrical or mechanical equipment).
- Portable Fire Extinguisher(s) must be installed complying with the Fire Code requirements.
- In all cases, storage is NOT allowed in basements, cellars, or anywhere below grade or ground level.
- Empty containers must be removed daily.
- The storage quantity and the storage locations of ABHR are restricted by the Fire Code.
- Information about the Maximum Allowable Quantity in different control areas on the FDNY website, www.nyc.gov/fdny under the “Codes” tab to the “Help/Reference” page.

Design and Installation Requirements for Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs (ABHR) Dispensers



ABHR Dispenser



Wall-mounted ABHR Dispenser

- The capacity of each dispenser cannot exceed 68 ounces, with a maximum of 41 ounces in a corridor.
- Dispensers must not be installed directly next, below or above any electrical device, switch, or other ignition source.
- Dispensers must only release by individual’s touching or motion.
- Dispensers in carpeted areas, they can only be installed in a fire area or smoke compartment protected by a sprinkler system.
- Wall-mounted dispensers must be non-aerosol, disposable, and non-refillable type. (Using replacement pack is acceptable).
- The minimum separation between dispensers shall be 48 inches.
- Wall-mounted dispensers must not exceed a maximum capacity of 10 gallons on one floor (unless the floor is separated by fire-rated walls).
- Wall-mounted dispensers must be between 42- 48 inches above the finished floor. The space between the dispenser and the floor must remain clear and unobstructed.



UNACCEPTABLE



ACCEPTABLE

Variance?

Application for a Fire Code modification (variance) to allow excess storage of ABHR in any buildings may be submitted to the FDNY for review and approval. The Applications may be completed on the FDNY website:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/business/all-certifications/plan-tm.page>

Questions?

Questions about Fire Code requirements may be calling 311; using the Fire Code public inquiry form on the FDNY website, www.nyc.gov/fdny (“Codes” tab to the “Questions and Feedback” page) ; or email

FDNY.BusinessSupport@fdny.nyc.gov .