



Fire Department

HEADQUARTERS

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CODE SUMMARY

MOTOR FUEL-DISPENSING FACILITIES

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific occupancy or permit. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to occupancies and operations as defined by the **California Fire Code**. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. These requirements pertain to existing buildings. New construction may be subject to additional requirements. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (805) 681-5500.

SCOPE:

Automotive fuel-dispensing facilities, marine motor fuel-dispensing facilities, fleet vehicle fuel-dispensing facilities, and aircraft motor-vehicle fuel-dispensing facilities shall be in accordance with Chapter 23 of the California Fire Code.

1. Electrical wiring and equipment shall be suitable for the locations in which they are installed.

All electrical wiring and equipment shall comply with CFC Section 605, NFPA 30A, and the *California Electrical Code*.

2. Dispensing devices shall be located as follows:

- A. Ten feet or more from lot lines.
- B. Ten feet or more from buildings having combustible exterior walls or buildings having non-combustible exterior walls that are not of a 1-hour fire-resistance-rated assembly or combustible overhangs.
- C. Such that all portions of the vehicle being fueled will be on the premises of the motor fuel-dispensing facility.
- D. Such that the nozzle, when the hose is fully extended, will not reach within 5 feet of building openings.
- E. Twenty feet or more from fixed sources of ignition. (CFC 2303.1)

3. Dispensing devices shall be protected as follows:

- A. Where dispensing devices are mounted at grade, they shall be protected at each end with a minimum of two concrete filled steel posts, 6-inches in diameter having a minimum 3-foot-deep footing.
- B. Such steel posts shall project above grade a minimum of 3 feet and be located not less than 4 feet nor more than 5 feet from fuel dispensers. (CFC 2303.1.1)

4. Emergency disconnect switch required.

- A. A clearly identified and readily accessible emergency disconnect switch shall be provided at an approved location to stop the transfer of fuel to the fuel dispensers in the event of a fuel spill or other emergency.
- B. The emergency disconnect switch for exterior fuel dispensers shall be located within 100 feet of, but not less than 20 feet from the fuel dispensers.
- C. Such disconnect devices shall be distinctly labeled as: **EMERGENCY FUEL SHUTOFF**. Signs shall be provided at approved locations. (CFC 2303.2)

5. Supervision required for dispensing of motor fuel.

The dispensing of fuel at motor fuel-dispensing facilities shall be conducted by a qualified attendant or shall be under the supervision of a qualified attendant at all times. (CFC 2304.1)

A. The attendant's primary function shall be to supervise, observe and control the dispensing of fuel, prevent the dispensing fuel into containers that do not comply with Section 2304.4.1, control sources of ignition, give immediate attention to accidental spills or releases and be prepared to use fire extinguishers. (CFC2304.2)

6. Dispensing devices shall not be obstructed from view.

Dispensing devices shall be in clear view of the attendant at all times. Obstructions shall not be placed between the dispensing area and the attendant. (CFC 2304.2.4)

7. Dispensing into portable containers.

Class I, II, and IIIA liquids shall not be dispensed into a portable container unless such container is of approved material and construction and has a tight closure with screwed or spring-loaded cover. Liquids shall not be dispensed into portable tanks or cargo tanks. (CFC 2304.4)

8. Motor fuel dispensing facility equipment shall be maintained in proper working order at all times.

Flammable liquid fuel-dispensing and containment equipment shall be periodically inspected to verify that it is in proper working order and not subject to leakage. The fire code official is authorized to require damaged or unsafe dispensing and containment equipment to be repaired. (CFC 2305.2)

9. Spill control shall be provided.

Provisions shall be made to prevent liquids spilled during dispensing operations from flowing into buildings. Acceptable methods include, but shall not be limited to grading driveways, raising doorsills or other approved means. (CFC 2305.3)

10. Sources of ignition shall be controlled.

Smoking and open flames shall be prohibited in areas where fuel is dispensed. The engine of vehicles being fueled shall be shut off during fueling. Electrical equipment shall be in accordance with the *California Electrical Code*. (CFC 2305.4)

11. Fire extinguishers required.

Portable fire extinguisher(s) with a minimum rating of 2A:20BC shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet from pumps, dispensers, or storage tank fill pipe openings. (CFC 2305.5)

12. Warning Signs are required.

Warning signs shall be conspicuously posted within sight of each dispenser in the fuel-dispensing area and shall state the following:

- 1.) No Smoking.
- 2.) Shut off motor.
- 3.) Discharge your static electricity before fueling by touching a metal surface away from the nozzle.
- 4.) To prevent static charge, do not reenter your vehicle while gasoline is pumping.
- 5.) If a fire starts, do not remove nozzle – back away immediately.
- 6.) It is unlawful and dangerous to dispense gasoline into unapproved containers.
- 7.) No filling of portable containers in or on a motor vehicle. Place container on ground before filling. (CFC 2305.6)

13. For unattended fueling stations, above tank storage and dispensing, LPG, LNG, Hydrogen dispensing facilities and Marine motor fuel dispensing facilities, see California Fire Code Chapter 23.