



# Fire Department

## HEADQUARTERS

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## **CODE SUMMARY**

### **PERMITS - RURAL INSPECTION, MOTOR FUEL DISPENSING ON FARMS, RANCHES, OR CONSTRUCTIONS SITES**

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:**

Permanent and temporary storage and dispensing of Class I and Class II flammable liquids for private use on farms and rural areas and at constructions sites, earth moving projects, gravel pits or borrow pits. (CFC 5706.2)

The CFC sections referenced below reflect the 2013 fire code requirements for storage and dispensing of flammable liquids for sites which must be met if the facility was constructed after the adoption of the 2013 CFC (Spring, 2014). For existing storage and dispensing facilities established earlier than adoption of the 2013 CFC, they are grandfathered in and must meet the specific CFC requirements established at the time they were built.

For code requirements of previous code editions, contact Santa Barbara County Fire Department Fire Prevention Division for assistance.

- 1. A permit is required to store and dispense Class I and Class II flammable liquids from above-ground tanks.**  
An Operational permit is required for the storage, dispensing and use of (CFC 105.5.16.2)
- 2. Combustibles and open flames are not allowed near above-ground tanks.**  
Storage areas shall be kept free from weeds and extraneous combustible material. Open flames and smoking are prohibited in flammable liquid storage areas. (CFC 5706.2.1)
- 3. Storage tanks must be conspicuously labelled indicating the flammable hazard.**  
Tanks and containers for the storage of liquids above ground shall be marked with the name of the product which they contain and the words: **FLAMMABLE - KEEP FIRE AND FLAME AWAY**. Portable tanks and containers shall bear the additional marking: **KEEP 50 FEET FROM BUILDINGS**. (CFC 5706.2.2)
- 4. Container for storage and use made of metal must be in accordance with DOTn requirements.**  
Or metal container can be of an approved design by the fire authority. (CFC 5706.2.3)
- 5. Discharge devices shall be of a type that do not develop in internal pressure on the container.** (CFC 5706.2.3)

6. **Pumping devices or approved self-closing faucets used for dispensing liquids shall not leak and shall be well maintained.** (CFC 5706.2.3)
7. **The capacity of permanent above-ground tanks containing Class I or II liquids shall not exceed 1,100 gallons.** Exception: permanent above-ground tanks of greater capacity that meet the requirements of Section 5704.2. The capacity of temporary above-ground tanks shall not exceed 10,000 gallons. Tanks must be of single compartment design. (CFC 5706.2.4)
8. **Fill openings shall be equipped with a locking device. Fill openings shall be separate from vent openings.** (CFC 5706.2.4.1)
9. **Tanks shall be provided with methods of normal and emergency venting. Normal vents shall be in accordance with Section 5704.2.7.3. Emergency vents shall be in accordance with Section 5704.2.7.4.**

Section 5704.2.7.3

- A. Vent lines from tanks shall not be used for purposes other than venting. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.1)
- B. Listed or approved flame arresters or pressure-vacuum (PV) vents that remain closed unless venting under pressure or vacuum conditions shall be installed in normal vents of tanks containing Class IB or IC liquids. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.2)
  - i. **Gasoline** is a Class IB flammable liquid
  - ii. **Diesel fuel** is a Class II flammable liquid
- C. Vent pipe outlets for tanks storing Class I, II or IIIA liquids shall be located such that the vapors are released at a safe point outside of buildings and not less than 12 feet above the finished ground level. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.3)
- D. Vent outlets shall be located such that flammable vapors will not be trapped by eaves or other obstructions. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.3)
- E. Vent outlets shall be at least 5 feet from building openings or lot lines of properties that can be built upon. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.3)
- F. Vent pipes shall be designed so that they drain towards the tank. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.4)
- G. Vent pipes shall be installed so that they are not subject to physical damage or vibration. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.4)
- H. Tank vent piping shall not be manifolded unless for air pollution control. Manifolded vent pipes shall be sized to prevent system pressure limits from being exceeded when manifolded tanks are subject to the same fire exposure. (CFC 5704.2.7.3.5.1)

Section 5704.2.7.4

- A. Stationary above-ground tanks shall be equipped with additional venting that will relieve excessive internal pressure caused by exposure to fires.
- B. Emergency vents for Class I, II, and IIIA liquids shall not discharge inside buildings.

10. **Tanks containing Class I or II liquids shall be kept outside and at least 50 from buildings and combustible storage.**

Additional distance shall be provided when necessary to ensure that vehicles, equipment and container being filled directly from such tanks will not be less than 50 feet from structures, haystacks or other combustible storage. (CFC 5706.2.4.3)

11. **Tanks shall be provided with top opening only or shall be elevated for gravity discharge.** (CFC 5706.2.5)

**12. Tanks with top opening shall be mounted as follow:**

- A. If mobile, provided with well-constructed metal legs connected to shoes or runners designed so that the tank is stabilized and the entire tank and its supports can be moved as a unit; or
- B. For stationary tanks, on a stable base of timbers or blocks approximately 6 inches in height which prevents the tank from contacting the ground. (CFC 5706.2.5.1)

**13. Pumps and fittings for tanks with top openings:**

- A. Tanks with top openings shall be equipped with a tightly and permanently attached, approved pumping device having an approved hose of sufficient length for filling vehicles, equipment, or containers to be served by the tank. (CFC 5706.2.5.1.1)
- B. Either pump or the hose shall be equipped with a padlock to its hanger to prevent tampering. (CFC 5706.2.5.1.1)
- C. An effective anti-siphoning device shall be included in the pump discharge unless a self-closing nozzle is provided. (CFC 5706.2.5.1.1)
- D. Siphons or internal pressure discharge devices shall not be used. (CFC 5706.2.5.1.1)

**14. Tanks for gravity discharge shall be mounted and equipped as follows:**

- A. Supports to elevate the tank for gravity discharge shall be designed to carry all required loads and provide stability. (CFC 5706.2.5.2)
- B. Bottom or end openings for gravity discharge shall be equipped with a valve located adjacent to the tank shell which will close automatically in the event of fire through the operation of an effective heat-activated releasing device. Where this device cannot be operated manually, it shall be supplemented by a second manually operated valve. (CFC 5706.2.5.2)
- C. The gravity discharge outlet shall be provided with an approved hose equipped with a self-closing valve at the discharge end of a type that can be padlocked to its hanger.

**15. Outdoor storage areas shall be provided with drainage control or diking as set forth in Section 5704.2.10. (CFC 5706.2.6)**

Section 5704.2.10

- A. The area surrounding a tank or group of tanks shall be provided with drainage control or shall be diked to prevent accidental discharge of liquid from endangering adjacent tanks, adjoining property or reaching waterways. (CFC 5704.2.10)
- B. The volumetric capacity of the diked area shall not be less than the greatest amount of liquid that can be released from the largest tank within the diked area. (CFC 5704.2.10.1)
- C. Diked areas shall be kept free from combustible materials, drums and barrels. (CFC 5704.2.10.4)

**16. 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 5706.2.7)