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Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Standards Division*

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Director

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TO: All North Carolina State Fair and Fairgrounds Concessionaires and Exhibitors

FROM: Richard G. Fredenburg, LP-Gas Engineer

All LP-Gas (propane) installations at the North Carolina State Fair and Fairgrounds must be in accordance with the North Carolina LP-Gas Law and Regulations. The requirements of this safety standard include, but are not limited to:

- (1) All LP-Gas containers must be maintained as required in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 58 (NFPA 58), 2020 Edition (likely 2023 Edition in the fall), the *LP-Gas Code*, including being properly painted to prevent corrosion, being in sound condition, and cylinders being requalified if more than 12 years old and so marked and visible. OPD requirements apply in North Carolina.
- (2) Installed or stored containers will be upright and secured with suitable restraints to prevent tipping over.
- (3) Containers not connected into service will have the service valve plugged or the regulator capped, or, if the valve is the Acme-thread type, the valve will not be plugged but may have a dust cap.
- (4) All containers will sit on concrete, asphalt, brick, solid wood blocks, or masonry blocks or in a container, such as a "milk crate," to avoid contact with the ground and to provide a stable footing.
- (5) Containers shall not be stored in any building, booth, tent, or unventilated vehicle. However, containers having a maximum LP-Gas capacity of 5 lb. may be used inside buildings for public exhibitions or demonstrations. If more than one such container is located in a room, the containers shall be separated by at least 20 ft. Routine preparation of food is not considered to be a demonstration or exhibition.
- (6) All containers filled in place will be located so the **fill valve is 10 feet from any ignition source**, or is separated from any ignition source by a vapor-proof barrier to provide 10 feet of separation. If the container is filled only when ignition sources are shut down, the separation may be reduced to 5 feet. **Relief valves must be at least 5 feet from any ignition source.**
- (7) All valves, hoses, and piping material will be suitable for LP-Gas service. **Hoses must be marked as LP-Gas approved.**
- (8) All piping shall be properly supported and, if necessary, protected from damage.

The above requirements, and any others which may be applicable, will be enforced by NCDA&CS LP-Gas inspection personnel and appropriate fire inspection personnel. **Do not ask a gas supplier to violate the rules.**

There are often some concession operators who do not adequately plan their space requirements to include their propane container(s). You may want to plan for additional gas hose or tubing to allow the container(s) to go behind your booth. All separation requirements of the *LP-Gas Code* apply.

Requests for special visits by LP-Gas inspection personnel may be left at the Fairgrounds Office.