



MEMORANDUM

To: LP Gas Cylinder Exchange Dealers
From: Office of State Fire Marshal
Re: Requirements for Cylinder Exchange Racks
Date: April 6, 2012

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) requires licensed cylinder exchange companies to submit a list of cylinder exchange rack location(s) in South Carolina (at the time of licensing and renewal). This practice will continue with modification as follows:

Effective immediately, each licensed exchange company must notify the OSFM, after a new installation is installed. This notification must be in writing via the OSFM website. By submitting the form, the cylinder exchange company is verifying that the installed rack and location is code compliant. This notification is in addition to the current list that must be submitted each licensing cycle.

OSFM NOTIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

The [LP Gas Cylinder Exchange Installation Notification](#) is available on our LP Gas website. Please email the completed form to Ronnie Yonce at veronica.yonce@llr.sc.gov

Requirements for cylinder exchange facilities are as follows:

1. International Fire Code (IFC) 312.2 or NFPA 58.8.4.2 requires that vehicle impact protection be provided by posts or other approved physical barriers complying with 312.3. An alternative may be used that meets the intent of this section with approval of the AHJ.
2. Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements:
 - a. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled.
 - b. Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center.
 - c. Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15 inch (381 mm) diameter.
 - d. Set with the top of the post not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground.
 - e. Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object.Physical barriers shall be a minimum of 36 inches (914 mm) in height and shall resist a force of 12,000 pounds (53,375 N) applied 36 inches (914 mm) above the adjacent ground surface.
3. IFC 2703.5 requires that cylinder exchange racks have the NFPA 704 placard posted.
4. Cylinder exchange racks located at stores and other facilities that only have one means of egress shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from any doorway or opening in accordance with NFPA 58 8.4.1.1(2)
5. Cylinder exchange racks located at stores and other facilities that two means of egress shall be located a minimum of 5 feet from any doorway or opening in accordance with NFPA 58 8.4.1.1(1).
6. Cylinder exchange racks shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from any automotive service station fuel dispenser.
7. Cylinder exchange storage in excess of 720 lb. (327 kg) shall be provided with a portable fire extinguisher that is accessible. The portable fire extinguisher shall have a minimum capacity of 18 lb (9.2 kg) dry chemical with B:C rating. The extinguisher shall be located no more than 50 ft (15 m) from the storage location (NFPA 58-8.5).