



# Chattanooga Fire Department

## Fire Code Requirements for Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Occupancies

This checklist provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of **Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Occupancies**. It is not possible to cover all regulations. If you have a particular question of concern, please telephone or FAX the Chattanooga Fire Department at (423) 643-5611.

### 1. Permits

- A. A valid certificate of occupancy from Building Inspection is required.
- B. Plans detailing indoor or outdoor storage, dispensing, use and handling of flammable and combustible liquids must be submitted for review and approval by the Chattanooga Fire Department prior to installation.

### 2. Fire Extinguishers

- A. One 2A-20BC rated extinguisher required within 75 ft. of any pump, dispenser, or fill-pipe opening.
- B. Mounted in conspicuous accessible locations.
- C. Inspected for proper maintenance annually by licensed individuals.
- D. Must be recharged following use.

### 3. Dispensing of Flammable and Combustible Liquids

- A. Provide supervision by a qualified person at all times.
- B. Allow dispensing into tanks of vehicles and approved portable containers only. (Glass and plastic containers not designed for flammable liquids are prohibited.)
- C. Prohibit smoking and open flames in dispensing area.
- D. Vehicle engines must be stopped.
- E. Provisions must be made to ensure flammable and combustible liquids will not flow into buildings, street, sewer, etc. (grading driveways, raising door sills, etc.).
- F. Accurate daily inventory records must be kept and maintained on premises.
- G. Unsupervised dispensing requires additional controls and must comply with the City of Chattanooga Fire Code.

### 4. Storage of Flammable and Combustible Liquids

- A. Class I, II, and IIIA must be stored in underground tanks, OR aboveground tanks in special enclosures, OR approved closed containers.
- B. Waste oil must be stored in underground tanks, aboveground tanks in special enclosures, or drums, with secondary containment.
- C. Vent openings shall be at least 12 feet above the ground.

## **5. Special Enclosures for Aboveground Tanks**

- A. Enclosures shall be liquid and vapor tight, without backfill inside.
- B. Sides, top and bottom of the enclosure shall be of 6-inch reinforced concrete with inspection openings only on top.
- C. Tank connections shall be such that neither vapors nor liquids can escape into the enclosed space.
- D. Tanks shall not exceed 6,000 gallons individual or 18,000 gallons aggregate capacity.
- E. Provision made for using portable equipment to discharge accumulated vapors to the outside.
- F. At least a 3-foot clearance around each tank for maintenance and inspection.

## **6. Dispensing Devices**

- A. Located so that the nozzle, when the hose is fully extended, will not reach within 5 ft. of the building openings.
- B. Located so the dispensing devices are over 10 ft. from property lines and buildings of less than one-hour fire resistive construction and 20 feet from fixed sources of ignition.
- C. Provide latch-open devices for nozzles where dispensing is done by someone other than a qualified attendant.
- D. Mount shear section of impact valves flush with the top of the island. Valves must be tested annually.
- E. Emergency disconnect switch must be within 100 ft. but not closer than 20 ft. of the dispenser.
- F. Leak detection is required where remote pumps are used to supply fuel to dispensers via underground piping.
- G. Equip Class I and II liquid dispensers with approved breakaway devices in hoses.

## **6. Signage**

- A. Post a correct address visible from the street.
- B. Post signs within sight of each customer being served. Signs must:
  - (1) prohibit smoking
  - (2) prohibit dispensing into unapproved containers
  - (3) require vehicle engines to be stopped during fueling operation
- C. Post a sign at the master switch that is visible from dispensers that says "EMERGENCY FUEL SHUTOFF".

## **7. Tank Abandonment**

- A. Aboveground and underground tanks out of service for more than one year are considered abandoned and must be removed. Tanks shall be removed from property pursuant to a valid permit and permission from the State of Tennessee
- B. Abandoned underground tanks may be filled in place only if tanks cannot be removed. Must obtain permission from the State of Tennessee.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

- A. Fire lanes must be properly marked and clear of obstructions and must be in accordance with the City of Chattanooga Fire Code.
- B. Provide separate metal containers with metal lids for combustible waste and for oily rags. Remove accumulation from premises daily.
- C. Maintain a 24-inch clearance between storage and ceiling.
- D. Provide cover plates for all electrical panels, outlets, boxes, and junctions.
- E. Extension cords shall not be utilized in place of permanent wiring.
- F. Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position.
- G. Gas-fired appliances must be properly vented to the outside, have approved flex-type connections, and have cut-off valves near the wall.
- H. Electrical heating equipment shall comply with the Electrical Code.
- I. Contact the Chattanooga Fire Department if a consistent or accidental loss of petroleum products occurs.