

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR THE DEALER AND YOUR SERVICE AND INSTALLATION PERSONNEL FROM QUALITY STEEL CORPORATION

WHY IS THE FIRST FILL SO IMPORTANT?

When setting a new tank, the size of the tank should be properly selected to fit the demand for gas to be used.

It is important that the first time a new propane tank is filled that it be filled to its maximum allowable liquid level with propane. This will help counteract the possible depletion of the odorant added to propane as a warning device in the event of a gas leak. Why? This puts the maximum amount of gas in the tank, which in turn puts the highest volume of ethyl mercaptan in the tank at a time when the odorant is most likely to be adsorbed, absorbed or broken down by oxidation in the tank. If the odor produced by ethyl mercaptan is allowed to fade too much, its effectiveness as a warning device is diminished or may even be eliminated.

The propane dealer should advise and warn the customer:

- About the presence of the odorant in propane gas and give the customer a scratch-and-sniff pamphlet to allow those using the propane gas to become familiar with the smell of the odorant.
- That the odorant can fade or become less intense. Competing odors and a person's inability to smell can also mask or cover up propane odor.
- Gas detectors may provide an extra measure of safety.
- They should not rely only upon the smell of propane for detection of propane gas.

Failure to properly advise the users of propane about its properties and those of ethyl mercaptan could lead to a severe fire or explosion hazard, resulting in death or bodily injury.

WHY IS PUTTING METHANOL IN A TANK SO IMPORTANT? FREEZE-UPS!!! HELP PREVENT ODOR FADE!!!

An LP-gas regulator can double for a fairly effective small refrigerator. This is because the high-pressure gas, coming into the regulator, expands as it goes through the orifice. This expansion of gas creates refrigeration. Therefore, if there is moisture in the gas, small droplets may freeze as they are attempting to pass through the cold orifice. If the flow of gas is large enough and there is enough moisture in the fuel, the orifice of the regulator could well be blocked by ice, stopping the flow of gas. Freeze-ups can occur even though outside temperatures are above freezing.

How does moisture get in the tank? ASME tanks are hydrostatically tested during fabrication, thereby introducing moisture to the tank. Vacuum pre-purging of tanks should eliminate most of this moisture and air containing moisture from the tank. That is why it is important that air (which will contain moisture) not be allowed into the tank when the vacuum is neutralized when first filling a vacuum pre-purged tank.

The easiest way to cure this type of freeze-up is to keep as much moisture as possible from your fuel. Adding genuine absolute anhydrous methanol (99.85% pure) to your tanks when you first fill them is extra insurance to prevent freeze-ups from any moisture that may still be in the new tank and reduces the occurrence of oxidation. By its very nature, methanol will bond with moisture in the tank, which then will be burned along with the propane supply, reducing the chance of oxidation of the steel used to make the tank. The amount of methanol to use is determined by the size of the tank, and you should use the guidelines for that amount shown in the Propane Education & Research Council's CETP training manual. Methanol will lower the freezing point of water sufficiently to prevent freezing. When mounting the regulator, be sure the regulator outlet is higher than the service valve outlet. If pigtails are "looped," be sure the loop is upward, preventing moisture from collecting and freezing at the bottom of the loop. Many times regulators are blamed for freeze-ups when ice frozen in the pigtails is the cause. Use larger pigtails (3/8" OD hogtails have more than three times the cross-sectional area of the standard 1/4" pigtail). Two-stage regulation helps prevent freeze-ups.

WARNING AND NOTICE ABOUT PROPER INSTALLATION OF PROPANE TANKS DESIGNED FOR USE UNDERGROUND

When a tank is designed for use in the underground storage of propane gas, a licensed propane dealer or installer must install it. The party installing the tank must inspect the tank and ensure that at the time of installation the external coating applied to the tank by the manufacturer remains continuous and intact. Failure to install the propane tank with an intact and continuous external coating voids all warranties (but not disclaimers) of the manufacturer. It is the responsibility of the purchaser or installer 1) determine whether additional protection should be used and 2) determine that the additional protection is compatible with the coating applied by the manufacturer. To help ensure long-term protection of the underground tank, cathodic protection should be used as it is now required in NFPA 58 and may be required by governing authorities having jurisdiction over the installation of underground propane tanks at the installation site. This tank is sold subject to and limited by the terms and conditions of sale, including, but not limited to, the manufacturer's warranty. Periodic inspections of tanks installed underground are recommended and may be required by the jurisdiction where installed.

The container and valves of propane tanks to be buried underground should also be carefully checked for leaks immediately prior to installation in the ground.

The licensed propane dealer or installer should make sure they follow all applicable federal, state or local regulatory requirements for protective coatings when they install a propane tank underground. The purchaser and installer are responsible for compliance with such federal, state and local regulations.