

# safety for wet line dispensers

Wet Line Dispensers, sometimes referred to as “Gravity Feed” Dispensers are often used in agricultural settings to fill portable cylinders and other containers.

These types of dispensers have no pump and are simply a propane tank with a hose connected to transfer propane from one container to another. They can be stationary or mobile to move around the farm.

The purpose of this safety guide is to advise you of the things you should know if you are using or plan to use a wet line dispenser on the farm. It is important to:

**1** Make sure the propane system is designed and installed properly.

**2** Ensure the propane system operates properly day to day.

**3** Ensure all operators are properly trained.

## training requirements

All individuals who are tasked with dispensing propane from a wet line dispenser must be properly trained. Failure to properly train could lead to potentially dangerous consequences.

**Training must consist of the hazards of the product, container suitability, and the functional expectations of the employee/operator.** Some of those functional expectations include:

- » **Knowing how to inspect the dispenser, hose, and fittings for safe fuel transfer.**
- » **Knowing how to determine that a container being filled is suitable for continued service.**
- » **Knowing how to determine the maximum permitted filling level of a container being filled.**

The Propane Education & Research Council’s program “**Dispensing Propane Safely**” provides basic training for individuals who will transfer propane from one container to another.

Transfer of liquid propane is serious business. The appropriate equipment, fittings, and hoses must be used in accordance with the code. **Transfer systems must be secured to prevent damage and tampering when not in use. Likewise, they must be inspected along with the container being filled prior to use.**

Contact your propane supplier or the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for more information.

# safety issues

» Improper hoses and fittings used to transfer propane:

- Hoses must be made of the correct material for its intended purpose and marked as such.
- Hoses are limited to 18 feet in length.
- Hoses must be secured when not in use to prevent damage or tampering.
- The hose end, where connection to the container is being filled, must include a snap-acting valve for quick closure.

» **Ensure that a proper connection is made to the dispenser tank.** The liquid connection must be made using the appropriate valves and fittings at the appropriate location. Use of a first-generation Actuated Liquid Withdrawal Excess Flow Valve, sometimes referred to as a Chek-Lok is not permitted. Use of a second generation Chek-Lok or an internal valve is permitted.

- Some states require an emergency shutoff valve. Means for emergency shutoff must be readily available.
- Pull away protection on the dispenser is required if the dispenser is on wheels or if the container being filled is on wheels.

- » Prior to filling, the dispenser fittings and hose **must be inspected for damage.**
- » The container being filled **must be inspected** to determine it is safe to fill.
- » **Containers must not be overfilled.**
- » **The operator must remain in attendance while fuel transfer is in progress** with the means to shut off flow when the container reaches the maximum permitted fill level or if something happened that would constitute an emergency. Operators must be properly trained to transfer fuel.

**Ensure that a proper connection is made to the dispenser tank.**



1st generation Chek-Lok

✓ 2nd generation Chek-Lok

## special safety considerations

» **Can a standard dispenser be used instead? Should cylinder exchange be considered?** A wet line dispenser is a method used to transfer liquid propane. The intention of this guide is your safety and the safety of those around you.

» Does your wet line dispenser satisfy all of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code requirements for dispensers?

## contact your propane supplier

Consult with your propane supplier or your Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to help with design, compliance, and training, or if you have any questions.



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