

Mobile Food Facilities: NFPA 58 Code Update

NFPA 58, Chapter 16 (2024 edition) applies to any “movable commercial or retail food facility,” such as a food truck or trailer, emergency mobilizing facility or food tent/booth, etc.

Fabricators of a mobile food facility should be aware of updated compliance requirements in Chapter 16 have replaced prior guidance from Chapter 6.26 and Chapter 11 of NFPA 58 (2020 edition). This new chapter in NFPA 58 along with NFPA 96 are considered the primary codes for fabricators of a mobile food facility as it relates to the propane storage and distribution system utilized for cooking operations within the mobile food facility.

If your state Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) has adopted the 2024 edition of NFPA 58, these code requirements may apply to mobile food facilities fabricated and operated in accordance with this new code. The 2024 edition of NFPA 58 has no specific language indicating that this new section of the code is retroactive.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

- ▶ The maximum storage capacity of propane on a mobile food facility is outlined in the following chart:

Maximum Capacity of Propane Storage on Food Trucks		
Total Appliance Input (Btu/hr)	Maximum Aggregate Water Capacity – Cylinders ^a (Pounds)	Maximum Aggregate Water Capacity – ASME Containers (Gallons)
<300,000	478 ^b	50
300,000 – 700,000	717 ^c	100
>700,000	717 ^c	500

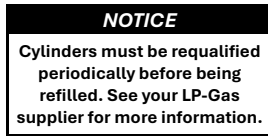
^a Maximum individual cylinder volume is water capacity of 239 lb.
^b Water capacity of 478 lb. is a nominal propane capacity of 200 lb.
^c Water capacity of 717 lb. is a nominal propane capacity of 300 lb.

- ▶ The main shut-off valves on containers must be accessible without the use of tools, or other equipment, and access must be provided to shut off the container valve.

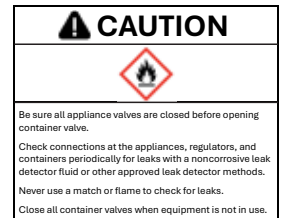


IMPORTANT UPDATES (CONTINUED)

- ▶ If propane containers are installed in a recess or a vented cabinet, specific labels are required:
- ▶ An “LP-Gas Only” label is required outside the container cabinet and letters must be a minimum of one inch in height
- ▶ A “Notice” label shown here must be placed inside a cylinder cabinet and must be visible when the cylinder is in place
- ▶ Containers permanently installed on a vehicle must have their container markings readable directly or with a portable lamp and mirror.
- ▶ Guidance is provided for installation of all the following propane system components:
 - Cylinders and portable ASME containers
 - Pressure relief discharge systems
 - Pipe, tubing and fittings
 - Piping systems
 - Pressure regulators



- ▶ Appliance connection options to the piping system are clearly outlined in the new code.
- ▶ Testing of new or modified piping must be pressure tested at 1.5 times the maximum operating pressure (but not less than 3 PSI) for a minimum of 10 minutes with air, nitrogen or LP gas as the test medium and the test gauge must:
 - Have a minimum 2-inch dial face diameter.
 - Have a maximum pressure of 5 times the test pressure applied to it.
- ▶ Gas-fired appliances operated while the vehicle is in transit must be equipped with automatic devices to shut off gas flow in the event the pilot flame is extinguished.
- ▶ Permanent caution plate to be installed is clearly defined and represented by Figure 16.7.10.



Questions?

If you have any questions about the NFPA 58 guidelines, access the free online version at [nfpa.org](https://www.nfpa.org).

Note: It is recommended you consult with NFPA 58 (2024 edition) for any code requirements that apply to the fabrication, safe filling or operator training requirements of a mobile food facility. There is an entire chapter dedicated to these facilities.



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