



Flammable and Combustible Liquids – Container Sizing

NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), requires that flammable and combustible liquids be stored in approved containers, portable tanks, and Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs). In addition, the code establishes quantity limits for various container types and liquid classes. This handout summarizes the quantity limits set by the 2015 revision of the code.

Containers

NFPA 30 recognizes several different container materials as acceptable for storing flammable and combustible liquids, including glass, metal, and polyethylene.

Glass

Glass containers are limited to a maximum capacity of:

- 1 pt (0.5 L) of Class IA or 1 qt (1 L) of Class IB. However, Class IA and IB liquids may be packaged in glass containers having a capacity not more than 1.3 gal (5 L), when the liquid's purity would be compromised by storage in metal containers or where the liquid is corrosive to metals.
- 1.3 gal (5 L) of Class IC and Class II.
- 5.3 gal (20 L) of Class III liquids.

Metal

Metal containers are limited to a maximum capacity of:

- 1.3 gal (5 L) of Class IA liquids.
- 5.3 gal (20 L) of Class IB, Class IC, Class II, or Class III liquids.

Polyethylene

Polyethylene containers are limited to a maximum capacity of:

- 1.3 gal (5 L) of Class IA.
- 5.3 gal (20 L) of Class IB and Class IC.
- 119 gal (450 L) of Class II and Class III liquids.

Safety Cans

Safety cans are listed containers having a spring-closing lid and spout cover and so designed that it will safely relieve internal pressure when subjected to fire exposure. These containers are limited to a maximum capacity of:

- 2.6 gal (10 L) of Class IA.
- 5.3 gal (20 L) of Class IB, Class IC, Class II, or Class III liquids.



Drums

- Metal drums are limited to a maximum capacity of 119 gal (450 L) for all classifications.
- Fiber drums are limited to a maximum capacity of 119 gal (450 L) of Class II and III liquids. They are not permitted for the storage of Class I liquids.

Portable Tanks and IBCs

- Metal portable tanks and IBCs are limited to a maximum capacity of 793 gal (3,000 L) for all classifications.
- Rigid plastic IBCs are limited to a maximum capacity of 793 gal (3,000 L) of Class II and III liquids. They are not permitted for the storage of Class I liquids.

Consumer Products

Common consumer products, such as medicine, foods, cosmetics, and beverages, are exempt from the package size limitations of NFPA 30 when they are packaged in a method that is acceptable for retail sales.

Prohibited Containers

FPA 30 does not permit flammable and combustible liquids to be stored in non-approved containers, bag-in-box containers, composite IBCs with flexible receptacles, or flexible IBCs unless protected with a fire protection system(s) designed specifically for the container and liquids present.

COPYRIGHT ©2014, ISO Services, Inc.

CH-25-33 7/24/14

The information, suggestions and recommendations contained herein are for general informational purposes only. This information has been compiled from sources believed to be reliable. Risk Consulting Services do not address every possible loss potential, law, rule, regulation, practice or procedure. No warranty, guarantee, or representation, either expressed or implied, is made as to the correctness or sufficiency of any such service. Reliance upon, or compliance with, any recommendation in no way guarantees any result, including without limitation the fulfillment of your obligations under your insurance policy or as may otherwise be required by any laws, rules or regulations. No responsibility is assumed for the discovery and/or elimination of any hazards that could cause accidents, injury or damage. The information contained herein should not be construed as financial, accounting, tax or legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship.

This document is not intended to replace any recommendations from your equipment manufacturers. If you are unsure about any particular testing or maintenance procedure, please contact the manufacturer or your equipment service representative.

American International Group, Inc. (AIG) is a leading global insurance organization. AIG member companies provide a wide range of property casualty insurance, life insurance, retirement solutions, and other financial services to customers in more than 80 countries and jurisdictions. These diverse offerings include products and services that help businesses and individuals protect their assets, manage risks and provide for retirement security. AIG common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Additional information about AIG can be found at www.aig.com | YouTube: www.youtube.com/aig | Twitter: @AIGinsurance www.twitter.com/AIGinsurance | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aig. These references with additional information about AIG have been provided as a convenience, and the information contained on such websites is not incorporated by reference into this document.

AIG is the marketing name for the worldwide property-casualty, life and retirement, and general insurance operations of American International Group, Inc. For additional information, please visit our website at www.aig.com. All products and services are written or provided by subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. Products or services may not be available in all countries and jurisdictions, and coverage is subject to underwriting requirements and actual policy language. Non-insurance products and services may be provided by independent third parties. Certain property-casualty coverages may be provided by a surplus lines



insurer. Surplus lines insurers do not generally participate in state guaranty funds, and insureds are therefore not protected by such funds.

© American International Group, Inc. All rights reserved.