

## Petroleum Guidance for Storage

**Aim:** To give advice on current guidance set by the Health and Safety Executive in accordance with the legislation of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1999, Petroleum regulations 2014 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002 Regulatory Reform Order 2005.

**Introduction:** As part of the day to day activity of club operations, it may be at times that members of clubs and their associates may come into contact with fuel stores to support club activity. This may take up the following

- ✓ Inshore rescue boats,
- ✓ Vehicles
- ✓ Tractors
- ✓ Generators

**Notice:**

- ✓ It is important to note that a current risk assessment and COSHH file is to accompany with such storage facility/area being used for activity requiring petroleum.
- ✓ Guidance for refuelling and the correct use of; can be seen in the SLSGB Inshore Rescue Boat Manual and Recue Water Craft Manual.
- ✓ A current fire extinguisher that is in date of service is in place. The fire extinguisher should be set as a class B fire (flammable liquids, petrol's and spirits).
- ✓ Correct hazard symbols should be in place (see below)



## ***If you store petrol at home, or at a club/association or similar premises***

### ***What if I only store a small amount of petrol?***

You can store up to 30 litres of petrol at home or at non-workplace premises without informing your local Petroleum Enforcement Authority (PEA).

You can store it in:

- suitable portable metal or plastic containers
- one demountable fuel tank
- a combination of the above as long as no more than 30 litres is kept

For these purposes 'premises' are as defined in the Health and Safety Work Act, etc. 1974 and includes, for example, motor vehicles, boats and aircraft.

### ***What do I need to do if I want to store larger amounts of petrol at my home or premises?***

If you wish to store more than 30 litres of petrol and up to a maximum of 275 litres of petrol at your home or premises you need to follow the legal requirements for doing this, which are:

- You should notify your local Petroleum Enforcement Authority in writing, giving your name and address as the occupier of the storage place or the address where the petrol is stored. This is not a new requirement but carries forward long standing requirements of the previous legislation.
- You can store it in:
  - suitable portable metal or plastic containers;
  - demountable fuel tanks; and
  - A combination of the above as long as no more than 275 litres is kept.

### ***How do I store petrol safely in my home or at my club or association?***

If you are storing up to 275 litres of petrol at any of these premises then you should be aware of the common storage requirements for these amounts, which are as follows:

- petrol is not stored in your living accommodation;
- petrol is not dispensed (ie it is not pumped either manually or electrically from a storage tank) at your storage place;
- if your storage place is not in the open air you need a direct exit to the open air and ventilation to this exit;
- you should take all reasonable precautions in your storage place to prevent any sources of ignition or heat that would be able to ignite the petrol or its vapour;

- you should not use petrol in the storage place other than:
- in the fuel tank of any internal combustion engine; and
- in quantities (not exceeding 150 millilitres at any one time), for cleaning or as a solvent for repair purposes.

Where petrol is stored in a place attached to a building, e.g. an integral garage, if the fire resistance requirements in the relevant legislation are met then these would be considered acceptable under the new regulations and storage can continue. For example, an older house with an integral garage (that has a room above it) that met the requirement for the ceiling to be 'constructed of material not readily flammable' would be considered as acceptable and would not have to meet the requirement in the new regulations that the ceiling of such a garage is fitted with 'fire-resistant internal linings'.

### ***Can I store more than 275 litres at my home or my club or my association?***

Yes. If you already hold a licence to store more than 275 litres of petrol at non workplace premises on 1 October 2014 your licence remains valid until it reaches its expiry date. Your local PEA will issue you with a new licence at that date as long as the storage conditions have not changed.

If you are storing more than 275 litres at non workplace premises and you don't have a licence you should apply to your local PEA to obtain a licence. This is not a new requirement but carries forward long standing requirements of the previous legislation.

The licence will specify your name and where the petrol is to be kept; it can be granted for up to 3 years and is not transferrable. Your local PEA may attach conditions to your licence with regards to how the petrol is stored.

### ***What containers can I use to store petrol?***

The legislation allows you to store petrol in the following containers:

- Plastic containers storing up to 10 litres.
- Metal containers storing up to 20 litres.
- Demountable fuel tank up to 30 litres.

Suitable portable containers are defined in Schedule 2 (para 6) and Schedule 3 of the regulations. UN approved containers are an example of such containers.

More detailed information on [portable petrol storage containers](#)  is available.

### **Does the petrol in the fuel tank of my car count towards the total I can store?**

No – the petrol in the fuel tank of your vehicle, including boats and aircraft, does not count when you are calculating the total amount you are storing.

### How much petrol can I store on a vehicle?

You can store up to 30 litres of petrol in a maximum of 2 suitable containers in your vehicle. For the purpose of these Regulations a 'vehicle' is interpreted as any type of vehicle so includes boats, aircraft and hovercraft. This type of storage counts towards the total you can store at non workplace premises. Carriage of petrol is covered by the [Carriage of Dangerous Goods \(CDG\)](#) and the European agreement (ADR).

- [CDG – Can private individuals carry petrol?](#)
- [Department for Transport - Guidance Note Number: 23/2013/REV 1](#)  

### Reference:

Health and Safety Guidance : [www.hse.gov.uk/.../petroleum-regulation](http://www.hse.gov.uk/.../petroleum-regulation)

SLSGB Inshore Rescue Boat Manual

SLSGB Rescue Water Craft Manual