

Handling and use of flammable and combustible liquids



The general requirements for the handling and use of flammable and combustible liquids such as a gasoline are set forth in 29 CFR 1926.152(a):

(1) Only approved containers and portable tanks shall be used for storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids. Approved safety cans or Department of Transportation approved containers shall be used for the handling and use of flammable liquids in quantities of 5 gallons or less.

29 CFR 1926.155(l) defines a safety can as:

An approved closed container, of not more than 5 gallons capacity, having a flash arresting screen, spring-closing lid and spout cover and so designed that it will safely relieve internal pressure when subjected to fire exposure.

29 CFR 1926.155(a) defines "approved" as:

(a) Approved, for the purpose of this subpart, means equipment that has been listed or approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Factory Mutual Engineering Corp., or Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., or Federal agencies such as Bureau of Mines or U.S. Coast Guard, which issue approvals for such equipment.

In the background to OSHA Instruction STD 3-4.1A (De Minimis for Absence of a Flame Arrestor Screen in a Safety Can), OSHA noted that while most safety cans approved by listed agencies or organizations have flame-arrestor screens in safety can spouts, Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. does not require them for approval of safety cans. Instruction STD 3-4.1A provided:

A. Purpose. This instruction establishes that the absence of a flame arrestor screen in the pouring or spout of a safety can is treated as de minimis.

When handling or using flammable or combustible liquids, the use of an Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. safety can without a flame-arrestor screen is treated as a de minimis violation.

