

CARRIAGE OF PETROL & DIESEL

PURCHASING PETROL & DIESEL FOR YOUR BOAT, CLUB OR SAILING SCHOOL FROM A VEHICLE FILLING STATION:

Current regulations allow petrol to be purchased from a filling station in portable containers and for it to be transported in a vehicle, provided that:-

- The petrol is taken **directly** from the filling station for use in a boat, club or sailing school;
- The filling station permits the required volume of petrol to be purchased in a single transaction (some local authorities and oil suppliers impose maximum permissible volumes for single purchases; and
- One or more of the following types of container is used to transport the petrol. In each case, the container must have a secure lid with a seal to prevent leakage or evaporation:-

Plastic containers must be made of suitable materials that are safe for the purpose, have a nominal capacity of 5 litres or less and have a safe means of pouring the contents. They must be marked indelibly with the words "Petroleum Spirit – Highly Flammable".

Metal containers must be reasonably secure against breakage (e.g. jerry cans). These containers must also be marked indelibly with the words "Petroleum Spirit – Highly Flammable".

Portable petrol tanks, whether plastic or metal, must be made of suitable materials that are safe for the purpose.

Built-in petrol tanks.

Before purchasing petrol in quantities in excess of 30 litres it is advisable to contact the filling station in advance to confirm whether the filling station has a maximum permissible volume limit for portable containers.

These restrictions do not apply to the carriage of diesel.

TRANSPORTING PETROL & DIESEL FOR PRIVATE USE:

The carriage of petrol or diesel by private individuals in a vehicle where the fuel is intended for their personal or domestic use or for their leisure or sporting activities is exempt from the general restrictions on the carriage of dangerous goods by road.

However, where the fuel is to be carried in refillable containers filled by or for a private individual, the total quantity transported must not exceed 240 litres at a time and each individual container must not contain more than 60 litres. In addition, the individual must take measures to prevent any leakage of the contents of the containers.

Notwithstanding the general limit of 60 litres per container, it is worth noting that the individual local authority petroleum licence under which a filling station operates may impose a limit on the capacity of individual metal containers that may be filled with fuel at that filling station. This limit is commonly 23 litres (5 gallons).

TRANSPORTING PETROL & DIESEL IN A WORK CONTEXT:

The carriage of petrol or diesel by individuals in a vehicle in the course of a work-related activity is exempt from the general restrictions on the carriage of dangerous goods by road provided that the following provisions are complied with:-

- The total quantity of fuel transported must not exceed 333 litres (petrol) or 1,000 litres (diesel);
- The fuel must be transported in individual containers that comply with the relevant United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ("UNECE") specifications and are marked with the UN number for petrol (UN1203) or diesel (UN1202), as appropriate;
- The containers must be stowed in the vehicle so as to avoid damage or loss from the vehicle;
- The vehicle driver must be given "general training" in accordance with UNECE specifications, which include how to respond in the event of an emergency;
- The vehicle must carry a 2kg fire extinguisher designed for tackling flammable liquid fires.

STORAGE OF DIESEL

There are no specific legal requirements on how to store diesel or the quantity allowed either in workplaces or domestic premises.

STORAGE OF PETROL

STORING PETROL IN A VEHICLE:

In addition to petrol contained in the normal fuel tank of a vehicle, a further 30 litres of petrol may be stored permanently in the vehicle. This storage must be in not more than two 10 litre metal containers and not more than two 5 litre plastic containers.

STORING PETROL IN A BOAT:

Petrol may be stored in a motor boat in the normal fuel tank. If the fuel tank is portable, petrol may be stored in the fuel tank in the boat provided that the fuel tank is properly connected to the engine.

In addition to petrol contained in the normal fuel tank of a boat, a further 30 litres of petrol may be stored permanently in a motor boat. This storage must be in not more than two 10 litre metal containers and not more than two 5 litre plastic containers.

For the purposes of this regulation, the expression "motor boat" includes any type of craft that has a petrol engine on board.

STORING PETROL IN A BUILDING:

Up to 275 litres of petrol may be kept in one storage place, without having to notify the local authority.

- Any quantity of petrol stored in a fuel tank in a vehicle or motor boat stored in the same place will be included in the volume of petrol kept in the storage place;
- Any two storage places not more than 6 metres apart, in the occupation of the same occupier, will be treated as being one storage place;
- Up to 275 litre of petrol could therefore be kept in each of a number of storage places provided that they are all more than 6 metres apart;

Petrol may not be kept in metal containers (other than fuel tanks connected to the engines they serve) that exceed 10 litres in capacity, unless:

- The storage place is more than 6 metres from any building, highway or public footpath; and
- Provision has been made (e.g. by constructing a retaining wall) to prevent the petrol from flowing out of the storage place in the event of a fire; and
- Notice has been given to the local authority.

If the petrol storage facility is within 6 metres of any building, the quantity of petrol stored may not exceed two 10 litre metal containers (plus any connected fuel tank) unless notice has been given to the local authority.

If the petrol storage facility is connected to a dwelling place, or other building where people assemble, with an interconnecting door then the quantity of petrol stored may not exceed two 10 litre metal containers and the connecting door should be self-closing and fire-resistant.

In addition to the above quantities, up to two plastic containers of not more than 5 litres may be kept in a safe place in any domestic premises (including outbuildings) and a further two plastic containers of not more than 5 litres may be kept in any other safe place (two places not more than 6 metres apart, in the occupation of the same occupier, will be treated as being one place).

REFERENCES:

These notes are for guidance only and are based on our interpretation of the following legislation:-

- The Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928
- The Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc) Regulations 1929
- The Petroleum Spirit (Plastic Containers) Regulations 1982
- The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002
- The carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009

CONTACTS:

If you have any concerns about the safety of your petrol storage facility then we recommend that you consult with your local petrol licensing authority for advice on the suitability and safety of your present arrangements.

The Department for Transport can be contacted for advice on transportation of fuel at www.dft.gsi.gov.uk or dangerousgoods@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively, please contact the RYA Legal Department by telephone on 0844 556 9519 or by email at legal@rya.org.uk

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