



SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AT MOTOR FUEL DISPENSING

The Colorado Revised Statutes have required conformance with the minimum standards prescribed by applicable sections of the current edition of the national fire code published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Following are two common, but important safety-related requirements included in NFPA 30A - *Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages*.

Requirements for Fuel Delivery Nozzles

Per NFPA 30A, a listed, automatic-closing-type hose nozzle valve, with or without latch-open device, shall be provided on island-type dispensing devices used to dispense Class I liquids. At any installation where the normal flow of product can be stopped other than by the hose nozzle valve, such as at prepay/self-serve facilities, the system shall include either:

- listed equipment with a feature that causes or requires the closing of the hose nozzle valve before product flow can be resumed, or before the hose nozzle valve can be replaced in its normal position in the dispenser; or
- the hose nozzle valve shall not be equipped with a latch-open device.

This is required since flow of fuel can be stopped by dispensers used in self-serve motor fuel dispensing facilities, and the nozzle can be returned to the dispenser in the latched-open position. Subsequently, activation of the dispenser would then immediately release fuel from the latched-open nozzle, creating a hazardous situation and/or a spill.

On a “pressure sensitive nozzle”, the nozzle cannot be opened until the pumping system is pressurized, and it closes automatically when the pressure is removed. The nozzle is closed automatically when placed back in the dispenser storage position, thereby preventing a hazardous situation and/or a spill. If the dispenser does not have pressure-sensitive nozzles, this requirement can still be satisfied by simply removing the latch-open device, thereby preventing the nozzle from being returned to the dispenser in the latched-open position.

If nozzles not meeting the requirements outlined above are encountered, the Division of Oil and Public Safety (OPS) will allow no more than 30 days to replace the nozzle or remove the latch-open devices to bring the nozzle into compliance.

Requirements for Maintenance at Dispensing Devices

Per NFPA 30A, when maintenance to dispensing devices is necessary and such maintenance is capable of causing accidental release or ignition of liquid, the following precautions shall be taken before such maintenance is begun.

- Only persons knowledgeable in performing the required maintenance shall perform the work.
- All electrical power to the dispensing devices, to the pump serving the dispensing devices and to all associated control circuits shall be shut off at the main electrical disconnect panel.
- The emergency shutoff valve at the dispenser, if installed, shall be closed.
- All vehicular traffic and unauthorized persons shall be prevented from coming within 20 ft (6 m) of the dispensing device.