



# Think Safety!

A Publication Of The West Virginia Propane Gas Association

Spring 2009

## Special Permit Allows Transport Exemption

Are you taking advantage of the permit that legally allows you to safely return a tank with propane in it back to your plant?

A special permit was obtained by the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) three years ago and that permit has been extended. The permit 13341 was originally issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) June 16, 2006. The permit has been extended until May 31, 2012.

Under the permit, holders are allowed to transport more than the previously allowed 5 percent in a tank provided the

tank is returned directly from the customer location to the plant.

It is important to note this permit applies only to NPGA members. Member companies must obtain copies of both the permit and a permit authorization letter found on the NPGA website. **Both must be kept in the vehicle when transporting tanks.** Non-member companies may petition DOT to be named as a party to the permit. If you have questions regarding the permitting process contact the Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals at (202)366-4535.

Copies of this permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at: [http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp\\_app/special\\_permits/spec\\_perm\\_index.htm](http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp_app/special_permits/spec_perm_index.htm)

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ted, however, any alteration is prohibited.

This special permit applies only to tanks of up to 500 gallons water capacity.

This issue of *Think Safety* will cover some of the requirements of 13341.



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Articles in this publication are for information only. Nothing in this publication is to be construed as setting standards or requirements. Please consult with appropriate regulatory and rulemaking bodies for all legal requirements.

## Permit Limits:

Special Permit 13341 allows for the transportation of a tank containing greater than 5 percent propane one way to the company's nearest bulk plant.

The permit does not include transportation from one customer site to another. It must be transported in a commercial vehicle by a company employee. A copy of the special permit and a permit authorization letter must be in the vehicle used to transport the tank.

The permit also exempts the tank from the marking requirements defined in CFR 49 172.302 (c).

It applies to non-DOT tanks designed for permanent installation at a consumer location. Each tank must be stamped with ASME code "U" and have a water capacity of 500 gallons or less. The tank must not be filled in excess of that allowed by CFR 49 173.315 (b).

## Permit Info:

If you have questions on SP-13341, please contact either Phil Squair ([psquair@npga.org](mailto:psquair@npga.org)) or Mike Calderera ([mcaldarera@npga.org](mailto:mcaldarera@npga.org)) at NPGA. You may also wish to contact DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals directly at 202-366-4535.

### Documents

**SP-13341 Authorization Letter** (Members Only, Adobe PDF)

**SP-13341 Permit** (Members Only, Adobe PDF)

## Loading The Tank:

Before the tank is loaded, it must be inspected by a trained and qualified person.

The tank must be inspected for leaks, corroded or scraped areas, dents, distortions, defects in welds or any other condition that might make it unsafe to transport.

The inspecting person must then record the inspection,

date it and then sign it to certify that no problems were found that would make it unsafe for transportation.

This inspection report must be kept on file for a period of two years. It must include the tank serial number, the tank size, any problems found, from where the tank is being moved and where it is

going.

Only one tank can be transported at a time in or on a vehicle.

The container must be lifted by slings that wrap entirely around the container. Lifting lugs may not be used to lift it. The slings must be rated at a weight sufficient to lift the tank, and they must be visually inspected prior to each use.

Any sling showing signs of excessive wear may not be used.

The tanks must be cradled on the vehicle. The supporting legs may not have any weight placed on them during the transportation.

The tank must be secured to prevent shifting within the ve-

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**Tom Osina: Executive Director**

**107 S. West Street, #110**

**Alexandria, VA 22314**

**Phone: 703/530-9772**

**Fax: 703/530-9653**

**Web address: [www.wvpropanegas.org](http://www.wvpropanegas.org)**

**Email address: [wvpga@aol.com](mailto:wvpga@aol.com)**

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 hicle on which it is being transported. All valves or other fittings must be loaded in a manner to minimize the likelihood

of damage during transportation.

The tank must be strapped, chained or tied down with a fastener of some sort that is

rated to exceed the maximum load transported.

A vehicle or trailer should be used that contains the entire tank within the envelope of

the vehicle. The tank cannot extend beyond the vehicle's frame. A trailer must provide adequate protection for the rear of the tank.

### Checklist For Transporting A Tank Containing More Than 5 Percent Volume

The tank must be inspected for any condition that might make it unsafe to transport.

The inspection must be recorded, dated and then signed to certify that no unsuitable conditions were found.

This inspection report must be kept on file for a period of two years.

The inspection report must include the tank serial number, the tank size, any problems found,

The inspection report must also include from where the tank is being moved and where it is going.

Only one tank can be transported at a time in or on a vehicle.

The container must be lifted by slings that wrap entirely around the container.

The slings must be rated at a weight sufficient to lift the tank.

The slings must be visually inspected prior to each use.

The tanks must be cradled on the vehicle.

The supporting legs may not have any weight placed on them during the transportation.

The tank must be secured to prevent shifting within the vehicle on which it is being transported.

Valves and other fittings must be protected.

The tank must be strapped, chained or tied down with a fastener rated to exceed the maximum load transported.

A vehicle or trailer must be used that contains the entire tank within the envelope of the vehicle.

A trailer must provide adequate protection for the rear of the tank.

## Reporting Requirements:

Any Hazardous Materials Incident that occurs while transporting the tank are subject to the Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting requirements specified in 49 CFR 171.15.

As soon as practical but no later than 12 hours after the occurrence of an incident, the person in possession of the tank must contact the National Response Center (NRC).

It is important to note that a reportable hazardous materials incident doesn't necessarily have to include an accident. DOT reportable incidents, however, have to occur during transportation.

Breaking the valve off or creating a leak in the tank due to a collision of some kind during transportation would be considered an accidental

incident. A tank leaking during its transportation could be considered an incident even though it might be the result of corrosion or some other

factor not directly related to the transportation.

An incident must be reported by phone at the earliest possible opportunity anytime it results in:

- A death
- A person receives injuries that require hospitalization
- The estimated property damage exceeds \$50,000
- An evacuation of the general public occurs lasting one or more hours
- One or more major transportation arteries or facilities are closed or shut down



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for one hour or more

- A fire occurs
- If the company involved in the incident feels that it should be reported even if it does not meet any of the above criteria.

Notify your company as soon as possible. Be prepared to provide:

- The number where you can be reached

- The date, time and location of the incident
- Extent of any injuries
- What happened
- If the incident is over or ongoing.

Your company should be able to use this information to determine the extent of the situation and the proper reporting procedure.

When an incident occurs an employee at the scene should

never proceed beyond his or her training or beyond the direction of the employer, and most importantly, the employee should never place his

or her life in danger.



## Are You Meeting The Standards Of DOT-SP-13341?

### This Issue Of *Think Safety* Outlines The Basic Requirements.

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Washington, DC 20590  
202-366-4535

**SPECIAL PERMIT AUTHORIZATION**  
DOT-SP 13341

**EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2012**

**GRANTEE:** National Propane Gas Association and members (on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals) Washington, DC

In response to your May 28, 2008 application for renewal of DOT-SP 13341, the grantee status to DOT-SP 13341 for National Propane Gas Association and its members is hereby renewed in accordance with 49 CFR § 107.109.

Copies of this special permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at [http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp\\_spe/special\\_permits/spec\\_perm\\_index.htm](http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp_spe/special_permits/spec_perm_index.htm). Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this special permit are permitted. Any alteration of this special permit is prohibited.

If you have questions regarding this action please call the Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals at (202) 366-4535.

Issued in Washington D.C. on June 4, 2008.

*Theodore L. Milke*

For Theodore L. Milke  
Associate Administrator  
for Hazardous Materials Safety

Alexandria, VA 22314  
107 S. West Street, #110  
The Heat is on!  
West Virginia Propane Gas Association

# Training Quiz

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

1. Special permit 13341 applies only to tanks of up to \_\_\_\_ gallons water capacity.  
A. 250                      B. 330                      C. 500                      D. 1000
2. The tank must be inspected for leaks, corroded or scraped areas, dents, distortions, defects in welds or any other condition that might make it unsafe to transport.  
A. True                      B. False
3. The inspection report must be dated and then signed to certify that no problems were found that would make the tank unsafe for transportation.  
A. True                      B. False
4. The inspection report must be kept on file for a period of \_\_\_\_ years.  
A. 3                      B. 2                      C. 5                      D. 10
5. The inspection report must include the tank serial number, the tank size, any problems found, from where the tank is being moved and where it is going.  
A. True                      B. False
6. Only two tanks can be transported at a time in or on a vehicle.  
A. True                      B. False
7. The container must be lifted by slings that wrap entirely around the container.  
A. True                      B. False
8. The slings must be rated at a weight sufficient to lift the tank at its tare weight.  
A. True                      B. False
9. Slings should be inspected before use and any sling showing signs of excessive wear may not be used.  
A. True                      B. False
10. The supporting legs may have weight placed on them during the transportation as long as the tank is transported less than 10 miles.  
A. True                      B. False
11. All valves or other fittings must be loaded in a manner to minimize the likelihood of damage during transportation.  
A. True                      B. False
12. The tank must be secured for transportation by a strap, chain or other fastener that is rated to exceed the maximum load to be transported.  
A. True                      B. False
13. A tank may extend beyond the vehicle or trailer envelope if the tank is flagged to avoid collisions.  
A. True                      B. False
14. A trailer must provide adequate protection for the rear of the tank.  
A. True                      B. False
15. Special Permit 13341 allows for the transportation of a tank to:  
A. Company's nearest bulk plant    B. Customer location    C. Nearest office    D. Neither A, B, or C
16. A copy of the special permit and a permit authorization letter must be \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. In the vehicle used to transport the tank    B. At the office    C. Attached to the Tank    D. Neither A, B, or C

# Training Quiz Answers

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