



PROPANE EXCHANGE

September-October 2011 * West Virginia Propane Gas Association

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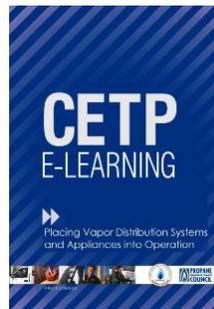
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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 14-16, 2012 NPGA Southeastern
Convention
Atlanta, GA

June 4-6, 2012 Propane Days
Washington, DC



Find Out What Is Changing with the Certified Employee Training Program

Webinar Series on CETP Updates for 2012

Join us for the next installment of the CETP Update webinar series.

The next webinar, at 2 p.m. Eastern time on October 19, will address the curriculum updates to the module on vapor distribution systems.

- **October 19:** *New Curriculum for Vapor Distribution Systems* (to register, visit <http://propanesafety.com/webinar-registration/>)
- **November 30:** *Basic Plant Operations (Combining Plant Operations and Cargo Tank Product Transfer).*
- **December 14:** *Regulatory Updates to Basic Principles & Practices, Propane Delivery Operations & Cylinder Delivery, and Bobtail Delivery Operations.*
- **January 18,** *New CETP E-Learning Platform Walkthrough*

Add These Training Tools to Your Website

The new Interactive Training Module allows you to add up to five online training tools to your website: the Heating Energy Cost and Carbon Calculator, the Energy-Efficiency Map, the Propane Products and Appliance Directory, the Virtual Home, and the Propane Energy Pod Tool. It's easy and it's free. Get started here:

<http://www.buildwithpropane.com/default.aspx?page=module>

Call to Action on DOE Vented Hearth Product Issue



Construction Professionals Need Your Help

More than one-third of new qualified construction professional leads on the Propane MaRC plan to build with propane in the next 90 days. The leads, which include confirmed contact information, email address, a projected start date, and primary area of business, offer real-time business opportunities to help grow your business and deliver more gallons.

As reported in the August issue of *Propane Exchange*, the Department of Energy (DOE) is attempting to regulate decorative gas fireplaces and gas logs sets as a type of direct heating equipment (DHE) which would require these products to meet DOE's minimum efficiency requirements. Current DOE regulations do not designate these products as DHE and, as such, are not "covered products" and not subject to DOE's minimum efficiency requirements.

NPGA has been deeply engaged in this issue and also coordinated with the Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association. DOE's proposal threatens to eliminate both jobs and gallons in

the propane industry. It clearly impacts manufacturers directly, but also distributors and retail marketers who offer these products for sale and/or provide fuel for their usage. NPGA's strategy to date has been to engage policy makers in all three branches of government.



Regulatory: On the regulatory side, the most important aspect is the filing of airtight comments with DOE by the October 14 deadline. Because this proposal impacts manufacturers, distributors and marketers, NPGA believes it is critical that our members also file their own comments with DOE. To facilitate this effort, NPGA has developed a grassroots letter menu offering a variety of points from which members can pick and choose to customize a letter that represents their interests and concerns. The letter menu is available behind the members' only section of www.npga.org.

Legislative: NPGA is encouraging its members to contact their local Representatives to Congress as soon as possible asking them to sign onto a joint Congressional letter to DOE Secretary Chu. The letter, which is being organized out of the office of Re. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), urges DOE "not to implement any regulations until Congress enacts legislation that provides the Department with statutory definitions for decorative gas products.

For further information, contact Bob Elliott at relliott@npga.org.



Comprehensive Safety Analysis

FMCSA Improves CSA Safety Measurement System

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently took another step towards improving safety through its Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program. In the August 3, 2011 Safety Measurement System (SMS) release, FMCSA refined the criteria that determines which motor carriers are subject to the more stringent Hazardous Materials (HM) intervention threshold.

This improvement, which was made after several months of careful monitoring and listening to industry and enforcement safety professionals, allows FMCSA to more accurately identify those motor carriers that transport placardable quantities of HM and thereby ensures that enforcement resources are deployed as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Background

CSA's SMS assesses 24 months of motor carriers' safety performance information (inspections and investigations) by seven Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS). The seven BASICS are Unsafe Driving, Fatigued Driving (Hours-of-Service), Driver Fitness, Controlled Substances/Alcohol, Vehicle Maintenance, Cargo-Related, and Crash Indicator.

Every month FMCSA updates motor carriers' percentiles in each BASIC and motor carriers with BASIC percentiles above the FMCSA threshold are prioritized for an FMCSA intervention. Motor carriers that transport placardable quantities of HM are subject to more stringent BASIC thresholds because of the higher safety risk placardable HM pose to the public in the event of a crash or a spill.

What Changed?

Previously, the HM intervention threshold was applied to motor carriers based solely on their registration information indicating they transported any quantity of HM. This resulted in some motor carriers being subjected to the lower

HM threshold that in fact were not carrying placardable quantities of HM, and conversely, resulted in some carriers not being subjected to the lower HM threshold that should have been. The HM intervention threshold now applies to motor carriers that transport placardable quantities of HM based on operational evidence. These are motor carriers that meet one of the following criteria:

Inspection in the last 24 months where the motor carrier was identified as carrying placardable quantity of HM

Review or safety audit in the last 24 months where the motor carrier was identified as carrying placardable quantity of HM.

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Motor carrier has a HM permit

For more detailed information on the HM regulations and how to comply with them, motor carriers should visit FMCSA's Website at the following link: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety-security/hazmat/complyhmregs.htm#hm>

How Can a Motor Carrier Learn about Its Status Regarding this Change?

Motor carriers should:

1. Go to the SMS Website at <http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/sms>.
2. Enter their U.S. DOT or MC number on the right-hand side of the page.
3. Scroll down to the registration information at the bottom of the page.
4. View the item entitled "Subject to Placardable Hazardous Material Threshold" where they will see either a "Yes" or a "No."
5. If the answer is "Yes," motor carriers can click on the link where a table will outline why the motor carrier is assessed using the placardable HM threshold.

Questions and Feedback

Motor carriers can contact their local FMCSA Division Offices or the CSA technical support staff using the contact information on the CSA Outreach Website. To learn more about CSA and to stay up-to-date, subscribe to the CSA RSS feed or email list at http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/stay_connected.aspx.

A Humorous Look at Directions





Plans are underway for the Propane Centennial Celebration in 2012—a year-long celebration of the people, events, and innovations that have made propane *the* EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY. Don't be left out of this milestone year for our industry. We won't see this occasion come again in our lifetimes!

Visit www.propane100.org to:

- Upload your company histories and special memories
- View our industry's historical timeline
- Stay on top of Centennial events and news
- Check what new features are added on a regular basis

Here's more of what's in store:

- A travelling museum of artifacts and memories from our last 100 years
- A focus on the next 100 years and why propane is the fuel to take our country there
- An industry raffle highlighting clean propane technology
- Media outreach efforts at the national level with templates for state and local use

**Propane
Centennial
Celebration**

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