



PROPANE EXCHANGE

Sept-Oct 2013 * West Virginia Propane Gas Association

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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| April 12-14, 2014 | NPGA Southeastern Convention
Atlanta, GA |
| June 3-4, 2014 | Propane Days
Washington, DC |
| June 23-24, 2014 | Summer Membership Meeting & Bobtail Rodeo
Glade Springs, WV
Daniels, WV |



Fall Annual Meeting Gets High Marks from Attendees

MEETING FEATURED 4 SPEAKERS

WVPGA Members got the chance to listen and interact with speakers in 4 key areas at the Fall Annual Meeting held in September in Morgantown, WV.

Dennis Cruise with Propane Training Services, focused on a variety of safety topics including Hours of Service changes and Revised Hazard Communication Standard (*see more on page 2*).



Phil Squair, NPGA's Senior Vice President, discussed the challenges facing the propane industry on the Federal level as well as restraining regulations such as OSHA's proposed Crane Rule (*read more on page 5*).

WV Clean State Co-Coordinator **Kelly Bragg** brought everyone up to date on alternative fuel activities underway especially those encouraged by Governor Tomlin.



Bill Davis, of the National Alternative Fuels Consortium right there in Morgantown, shared information on a variety of training curriculums designed to assist repairing alternative fueled vehicles including one planned for propane.

Attendees gave the program and meeting location at the Waterfront Place Hotel high marks. The best comment given that sums up the entire day was "*Great opportunity to meet others in our industry and region.*"

Keep an eye on www.wvpropanegas.org for the dates of future meetings.



Hazardous Communication Standard

Here is the Update

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), called HazCom (29 CFR §1910.1200). On March 26, 2012, OSHA updated its HazCom Standard to become more aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The changes took effect on May 25, 2012.

The GHS is an international approach to hazard communication, providing agreed upon criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health and physical hazards. The GHS also offers a standardized approach to label elements and safety data sheets. The standard will be implemented piecemeal. OSHA believes the revised standard will improve the quality and consistency of hazard information in the workplace, making it safer for workers by providing easy to understand directions on the appropriate handling and safe use of hazardous chemicals.

The HazCom Standard contains a number of elements: hazard classification, safety data sheets (SDS), the written program, labels, and employee training. Major changes to the HazCom Standard because of harmonization with GHS include:

* *Hazard classification:* Provides specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures.

* *Labels:* Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to provide a label that includes a harmonized signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided. An OSHA Brief on labels and pictograms can be found here: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>.

* *Safety Data Sheets:* Will now have a specified 16-section format. For more information, refer to this OSHA Brief on safety data sheets: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.pdf>.

* *Information and training:* The GHS does not address training. However, the proposed HazCom Standard requires workers be trained by December 1, 2013 to facilitate recognition and understanding of the new labels and safety data sheets.

For more information, refer to this OSHA Brief on training requirements: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3642.pdf>.

The HazCom Standard has staggered implementation dates to allow time for companies to comply with the requirements. The final Hazard Communication rule can be viewed at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/HCSFinalRegTxt.html>.

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Ralph Rooney
Suburban Gas Inc.
Past NPGA President

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"Applications must be completed and all required information and documents must be received by February 15, 2014. Successful applicants will be notified beginning of May 2014. NPGF will only accept online applications for scholarships."

The National Propane Gas Foundation Scholarship Fund was established in 1994 by a committed group of energized volunteers. Its purpose is to foster educational opportunities for the children of National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) member companies by offering scholarships to colleges or vocational/technical schools. The fund provides nonrenewable scholarships in the amounts of \$1,000 - \$2,000.

The online application is available NOW. Applications must be completed and all required information and documents *must be received by February 15, 2014*. Successful applicants will be notified beginning of May 2014. NPGF will only accept online applications for scholarships. The Foundation has discontinued use of the paper scholarship applications to save on administrative costs and to expedite processing. Of course, written high school and college transcripts will still be accepted.

To apply go to: <http://www.npga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=791>



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OSHA DELAYS IMPLEMENTATION

On May 22, 2013, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced its intention to extend the compliance date for the crane operator certification requirement by three years, from November 2014 to November 10, 2017.

OSHA said it is proposing the extension because the requirements may result in a disruption in the construction industry, and because the operator certification alone doesn't guarantee the competence to safely operate cranes. The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) has asked OSHA to rule that delivering a propane tank to a customer location is the same as delivering building materials, which is excluded from the scope of the rule. Likewise, NPGA has sought a similar exclusion from the scope of the rule for delivery of propane tanks

The extension is a proposed change to a Final Rule covering Cranes and Derricks in Construction standard published August 9, 2010 by OSHA. The new requirements, under Subpart CC of 29 CFR Part 1926, contain many requirements relating to crane operations and maintenance, including a provision for crane operators to be third-party certified if operating a crane in construction applications. Prior to the extension, the standard required crane operators on construction sites to meet one of four qualification/certification options by Nov. 10, 2014.

The operator would be required to obtain certification from a third-party organization, which itself must be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or another accrediting entity. An equipment operator may be certified by an accredited crane operator testing organization, an audited employer program, the U.S. military, or through licensing by a government entity.



The employer must provide the qualifications or certification at no cost to the operators. To earn certification, a student must pass a written test, and then pass a practical skills test within one year. Recertification is required every five years.

OSHA has proposed an extension to the compliance date for crane operator certification for two reasons. First, the regulation requires that operator certification be by type and capacity. but the two largest testing organizations have issued certifications by type, but not capacity, invalidating these certifications. The Agency is concerned that the large number of operators with invalid (for OSHA purposes) certifications, and the relatively short amount of time to obtain valid ones, may result in a disruption in the construction industry.

Second, the crane industry voiced concerns that operator certification alone does not provide sufficient demonstration or guarantee of competence to safely operate cranes. This view was clearly expressed at the stakeholder meetings OSHA held on this issue in April 2013.

The cranes and derricks requirements are available at <http://www.osha.gov/cranesderricks/index.html>.

"The Agency is concerned that the large number of operators with invalid (for OSHA purposes) certifications, and the relatively short amount of time to obtain valid ones, may result in a disruption in the construction industry."