



Fuels Safety Program	Ref. No.: FS-001-98 R1	Rev: 1
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Subject: Aboveground Tanks Equipped for Gravity Dispensing of Fuel
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The Liquid Fuels Handling Code (LFHC) prohibits dispensing of fuel from an aboveground tank except by means of pumping. Clause 4.1.1 of the Code states:

“Product shall not be transferred from a storage tank except by means of pumping.”

This requirement has been in the Code since the early 1970's because of the potential for severe environmental damage in the event of a leak in the hose or nozzle.

ULC-approved tanks in good condition that have provision for filling, venting, and the installation of a pump may continue to be used. Many installations may be brought into compliance by lowering the elevated storage tank to ground level; placing it on a non-combustible platform; plugging the bottom outlet and installing a manual or electric pump. Tanks may remain in an elevated position provided they are equipped with an anti-siphon valve, in accordance with clause 4.1.5(b) of the LFHC, and a pump is installed.

Tanks over 5,000L capacity are required to be double-walled or installed in a dike. Clause 3.3.1.1.2 of the Liquid Fuels Handling Code exempts tanks under 5,000L from having a dike if, in the event of an escape of product, it would:

- (a) create a hazard to public health or safety,
- (b) contaminate any fresh water source or waterway,
- (c) interfere with the rights of any person, or
- (d) allow entry of product into a sewer system or underground stream or drainage system.

Fuel suppliers are advised that aboveground tanks equipped for gravity dispensing of fuel are not approved installations and that filling these tanks is in contravention of section 9 of O. Reg. 217/01.