

HEATBASE Ltd FACTSHEET 40

Fire separation distances from LPG Storage

Version 1 July 2015

Just like the regulations relating to Oil storage with regards to protection against fire, there are fire separation distance relating to LPG storage distances from Oil tanks and flue terminals; strangely the oil regulations only refer back to the LPG regulations for information! So:

UKlpg User Information Sheet 010

Formerly LPGA Technical Memorandum NO.78 – November 2004

SEPARATION DISTANCES BETWEEN LPG CYLINDERS AND TANKS AND DOMESTIC OIL TANKS

Cylinders

Both Code of Practice 24 part 1 and British Standard 5482 part 1 specify a distance from LPG cylinders and “readily ignitable materials” which should not be less than 1m.

“Readily ignitable” in terms of oil tanks means those containing products having a flash point of 65 °C or less. This includes most domestic heating oils.

In view of the difficulty of establishing the flash point at domestic premises, the possible change to a fuel having a lower flash point, the risk of obstruction of the oil filling process and the risk of oil spillage over cylinders the separation distance of 1m should be maintained even if the flash point is understood to be above 65°C.

Bulk LPG Vessels

The separation distance between bulk LPG tanks and oil tanks / tank bunds is given in Code of Practice 1 part 1, Table 2.

For oil tanks containing up to 3000 litres of product having a flash point of 65 °C or less and LPG tanks up to 60 tonnes this distance is 3m.

To allow access and ventilation to the LPG tank the separation distance between bulk LPG tanks and oil tanks containing products having a flash point of more than 65 °C should not be less 1m.

Therefore, Bulk LPG storage tanks should be sited at least 3 meters from an Oil storage tank with a volume of up to 3000 Litres (if the Oil tank is above this capacity independent advice should be sought from the Local Authority and Fire Brigade).

LPG bottles/cylinders should be kept a minimum of 1 meter from Oil storage tanks.

Any flue terminal should be a minimum of 300mm above the bottles/cylinder and 1 meter horizontally. This regulation is from the LPG side of the Industry and is giving distances from an LPG boiler flue and is very confusing as there is no mention of distances from an Oil boiler flue (which is 1.8m from an oil tank) and no one seems to be able to clarify what distance an oil boiler flue should be from an LPG cylinder!