



# Storage and Use of Propane at Food Cart/Truck Commissaries

## INTRODUCTION

### Question: What is LPG?

**Answer:** Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is a flammable gas. Propane is one type of LPG.



### Question: Why is LPG dangerous?

**Answer:** LPG is highly flammable and can be readily ignited by a spark. If confined or exposed to fire, leaking propane poses an explosion hazard. Leaking propane can collect in low areas, where ignition sources (e.g. unextinguished cigarettes) may be present. An LPG explosion can cause serious injuries and/or damage property.



## USE

### Question: How many LPG containers allowed in or on a food cart/truck?

**Answer:**

Food Cart	Food Truck
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maximum of two (2) cylinders</li> <li>✓ Cylinders cannot be greater than 20 lbs. each.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maximum of two (2) cylinders</li> <li>✓ Cylinders cannot be greater than 100 lbs. each.</li> <li>✓ A Fire Department permit for the food truck is required when total quantity of LPG is greater than 400 SCF (Standard Cubic Feet, approximately 46 lbs.)</li> </ul>
	

### Question: When can LPG containers allowed to be in any occupied building?

**Answer:** Only 16.4 ounces or less are allowed unless otherwise authorized by the FDNY.

### Question: What Certificate of Fitness will I need?

**Answer:** A G-23 Certificate of Fitness holder is required to connect and disconnect LPG containers (more than 1 pound) to a food cart/truck.

Visit the website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/business/all-certifications/cof-g23.page>

**STORAGE**

**Question: When will I need an FDNY permit for storing any LPG containers?**

**Answer:** If you want to store LPG containers with total quantity greater than 400 SCF (approximately 46 lbs. for LPG) at any facility, you must obtain an FDNY permit.

Examples:

LPG Container Capacity	FDNY Permit required
14.1 ounces	54 containers
16.4 ounces/1 pound	46 containers

LPG Container Capacity	FDNY Permit required
20 pounds	3 containers
100 pounds	1 container

**Question: How to obtain an FDNY permit for storing LPG containers?**

**Answer:** Follow the steps below to obtain the FDNY permit. LPG container storage is not allowed until a Fire Department permit is issued:

1. Hire a registered design professional to submit required design and installation documents  
Visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/buildings/industry/project-checklists-design-professional-mechanical.page>
2. The registered design professional must obtain an approval from the Department of Buildings (DOB).
3. Submit the DOB’s approval along with a TM-1 Application for Technology Management Plan Examination/Document Review to the Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention.  
Visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/business/tm-1-application-for-plan-examination-doc-review.pdf>
4. Upon approval, the facility owner representative must contact FDNY District Office for a site inspection and permit issuance.

**Question: What does an FDNY permit look like?**

**SAMPLE FDNY PERMIT**

FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK			PERMIT		BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION		
ACCOUNT NUMBER	TYPE	A.P.	D.I.D.	ADM. CO.	ISSUANCE DATE	PERMIT EXPIRES	
99999999	10	S	14	E260	05/01/21	04/22	
PREMISES ADDRESS							
11111 FIRST AVE, QUEENS				ABC COMMISSARY			
ITEM CODE	SUB CODE	QTY	DESCRIPTION			FLOOR NO.	FEE
345	08	1	STR/HANDLE/USE LPG			1	PAID
PERMIT TYPE							
1							
1=REGULAR		ABC COMMISSARY		ANNUAL FEE		PAID	
2=SUPPLEMENTAL		11111 FIRST AVE					
3=DUPLICATE		QUEENS NY 11101-6112					
 2021160814		ONE LPG CAGE IN PARKING LOT SIDE OF BLDG		BY ORDER OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER			

**Question: What Certificate of Fitness will I need?**

**Answer:** G-44 Certificate of Fitness is required for the general supervision of an LPG storage facility.

Visit the website: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/business/all-certifications/cof-g44.page>

## OUTDOOR STORAGE (MUST HAVE THE FDNY STORAGE PERMIT)

**Question: What is the maximum quantity that I can store LPG containers in an outdoor storage facility?**

**Answer:** For new installations, total quantity is limited to 400 pounds or 20 containers of 20 pounds each. Any empty LPG container must be treated and counted as though it contains LPG.

**Question: What are the requirements of the outdoor storage area?**

**Answer:**

- It must be at or above grade level and no more than 54 square feet in area.
- It must be located:
  - not less than 20 feet from building openings.
  - 20 feet from any gas station.
  - 10 feet from any combustible material; any building or structure of combustible construction; public sidewalks and parked motor vehicles; public streets, private roads and lot lines.
  - 25 feet from any public gathering place.
- No building used for residential purpose can be located on the same lot.
- It must be protected from vehicle impact, theft, tampering or unauthorized use, and accessible directly from the street for LPG container delivery.

**Question: How must the outdoor storage area be protected?**

**Answer:**

- The area must be protected with one of the following protective enclosures:
  - A metal open fence enclosure at least 6 feet in height, secured by a locked gate opening outward; or
  - A lockable ventilated metal locker of a type for which a FDNY Certificate of Approval has been issued.
- The enclosure must be located in a well-ventilated area with a minimum clearance of 10 feet from any surrounding walls more than 8 feet high on at least three sides.

**Question: How do I know if the design and installation comply with the regulations?**

**Answer:** Look for the FDNY permit.

The FDNY permit should be posted on the premise, if not, it may be illegal. The permit will only be issued after the design of the storage facility is reviewed and accepted, and an FDNY inspector has performed a site inspection.

## INDOOR STORAGE (MUST HAVE THE FDNY STORAGE PERMIT)

Indoor storage is only allowed when an outdoor storage facility is NOT available.

**Question: What is the maximum quantity of LPG containers that I can store in an indoor storage facility?**

**Answer:** Total quantity is limited to 300 pounds or 15 containers that are twenty (20) pounds each.

**Question: What are the requirements of the indoor storage facility (room)?**

**Answer:** The room must be designed and constructed in compliance with Fire and Building Codes.

**Question: How do I know if the design and installation comply with the regulations?**

**Answer:** Look for the FDNY permit.

The FDNY permit should be posted on the premise, if not, it may be illegal. The permit will only be issued after the design of the storage facility is reviewed and accepted, and an FDNY inspector has performed a site inspection.

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS THAT YOU MUST FOLLOW!**

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPG containers with a capacity of 20 pounds or more must have transportation plugs.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propane tanks must be connected or disconnected by a person with a G-23 Certificate of Fitness.</li> <li>Propane tanks must be disconnected and safely stored in your cart or truck while traveling.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A portable fire extinguisher with at least 10-B:C rating, either in a protective enclosure affixed to the outside of the storage facility or within 30 feet and readily accessible at all times.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warning sign must be at least 10 inches by 14 inches in size and the letters must be at least 2 inches high.</li> <li>A hazard identification diamond signs must comply with NFPA 704 requirements.</li> <li>These signs must be conspicuously posted at each storage location.</li> </ul>

**PROHIBITIONS**

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPG containers must NOT be stored and used in the position other than upright position.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When you close your unit for the day, do not leave any propane tanks on your unit. Return all tanks to the propane storage area with the FDNY permit.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No delivery of containers is allowed to pass through the commissary building.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPG containers must not be rolled/dragged on their side or rims. They must only be moved by lifting and lowering, by hand or with approved equipment.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damaged or unusable LPG containers must be promptly removed and disposed of in a lawful manner.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPG containers must not be stacked or stored on shelves. No LPG container is allowed to be stored underground level (e.g. basement).</li> </ul>

### MODIFICATION (VARIANCE)

#### **Question: What if I don't comply with the regulations?**

**Answer:** If Fire Department inspectors observe noncompliant conditions, the owner(s) may be ordered to remove the LPG containers.

In the event that an owner has difficulty in meeting the requirements listed in the sections below, the applicant must first submit a modification (variance) application

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/business/all-certifications/modification-variances.page>

The submission of a modification (variance) application does not grant an automatic exemption from the NYC Fire Code.

### ILLEGAL STORAGE AND REPORT

#### **Question: How can I know if LPG containers are being stored legally?**

**Answer:** Look for the FDNY permit.

Other possible signs that the storage facility may be illegal:

- There is an excessive amount of propane tanks (more than four 100-pound propane tanks or more than twenty 20-pound tanks).
- The storage area is not properly secured.
- The storage area is not well-ventilated.
- The storage area is below grade.
- The storage area cannot be accessed directly from the street for propane delivery

#### **Question: How to report if I suspect propane tanks are stored/used illegally?**

**Answer:** Call 311 and request to speak with the FDNY Fire Prevention Customer Service Center.

### OTHER QUESTIONS?

Questions regarding other related mobile food vendor permit, may be answered by calling 311; visiting <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/business/food-operators/mobile-and-temporary-food-vendors.page> ; or emailing the FDNY at [FDNY.BusinessSupport@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:FDNY.BusinessSupport@fdny.nyc.gov)