

Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division

Dispensing Fuel into Portable Containers

Approved containers

Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) Section 2304.4 allows gasoline and diesel fuel to be dispensed into portable containers if:

- The containers are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory for fuels.
- The containers are 6 gallons or less in size (red for gasoline, yellow for diesel).
- The containers are located on the ground next to the dispenser while being filled.
- The nozzle dispensing fuel into the approved container is manually held open.

Portable containers may not be filled in the trunk of a vehicle, bed of a truck or the passenger compartment of a vehicle.

Examples of unapproved containers

- 55-gallon metal drums.
- Any portable container over 6 gallons in size.
- Unlisted containers such as glass jars, plastic milk jugs, etc. (no label – UL, FM, etc.).

Fuel dispensing facility requirements

- Signs at dispensers per MSFC Section 2304.3.5 and 2305.6.
- Attended self-service dispensing facilities require one attendant on duty to:
 - Supervise, observe and control dispensing of fuel.
 - Stop the dispensing of fuel into unapproved containers.
 - Control sources of ignition (smoking, portable electronic devices).
 - Stop dispensing when consumer is not next to nozzle.
 - Address spills and ready to use fire extinguishers.
- Unattended self-service dispensing facilities with no attendant on duty (facility closed except dispensing) must have:
 - Signs at dispensers as stated above in plain sight (line of sight less than 6 feet).
 - An emergency shut off and two-way communication device (telephone or call box).
 - Dispensers set to limit dispensing to 25 gallons requiring manual action to resume.

Citations for violating MSFC

City, county and state law enforcement may issue citations per the following legal order of authority:

- Minnesota Statute 299F.011 Subd. 4.
- Minnesota Rule 7511.0101.
- MSFC Section 2304.4.

Local fire code officials as defined in MSFC Section 202 may cite MSFC Section 2304.4.

