

N.F.P.A. 704 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

In 1960, NFPA 704 was published and has been amended to the current version. The purpose of this standard is to safeguard the lives of those individuals who may be concerned with fires occurring in an industrial plant or storage location, where the fire hazards of materials may not be readily apparent.

Many communities or authorities having jurisdiction now require compliance with NFPA 704 to identify hazardous material, and this will include propane storage areas. In addition to LP-gas plant sites, the code includes industrial, institutional and commercial storage installations at end-user locations. Domestic installations, use by the general public, and transportation are not affected.

The identification system provided for in NFPA 704 is concerned with the health, fire reactivity and other relative hazards created by short-term exposure as might be encountered under fire or related emergency conditions. Its objectives are to provide an appropriate signal or alert and on-the-spot information to safeguard the lives of the emergency response teams. The system is intended to give basic information to fire fighting and emergency personnel, enabling them to decide whether to evacuate the area or to fight the fire, and will guide them during fire emergencies.

The system identifies the hazards of a material in terms of three principal categories: Health, Flammability, and Reactivity. The order of severity is designated numerically by five divisions ranging from (4), indicating a severe hazard, to (0), which indicates no special hazard. Supplementing this arrangement, a color background is used in the three categories: BLUE for health hazard, RED for flammability and YELLOW for reactivity. A fourth space is WHITE, and is used to indicate a special hazard such as reactivity with water or chemicals, radioactivity, proper fire extinguishing agent or protective equipment required.

At an industrial, commercial or LP-gas plant site, these informational signs shall be placed adjacent to gate entrances or directly on the storage tanks so they are visible by emergency response teams. If more than one type of hazardous material is stored within an enclosure, the identification sign should be placed on the container or adjacent to it.

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The purpose of this bulletin is to set forth general safety practices for the installation, operation, and maintenance of LP-gas equipment. It is not intended to be an exhaustive treatment of the subject, and should not be interpreted as precluding other procedures which would enhance safe LP-gas operations. Issuance of this bulletin is not intended to nor should it be construed as an undertaking to perform services on behalf of any party either for their protection or for the protection of third parties. The National Propane Gas Association assumes no liability for reliance on the contents of this bulletin.

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The size of the sign can be determined by using NFPA 704 or by the chart below:

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS

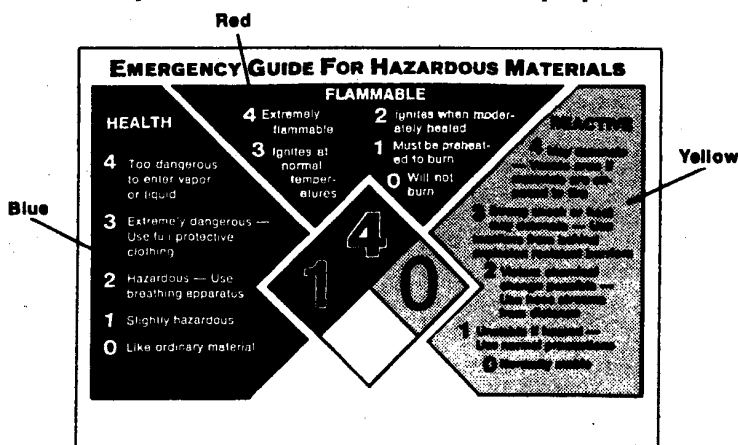
Signal Location	Size of Numeral	Distance Legible
Small Containers	2"	75 feet
Gates	3"	100 feet
Large Containers	6"	300 feet

The proper identification sign for propane is shown below, and will contain the following:

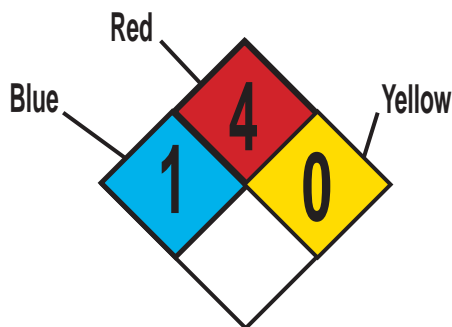
Health Hazard - Blue - 1
 Fire Hazard - Red - 4
 Reactivity Hazard - Yellow - 0
 Special Hazard - White - Blank

The required number system for any material which is listed to be identified may be found on a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or by using NFPA 704 publication.

At most LP-gas plants other material which is stored may also be required to be identified in the same manner. Check your local requirements and current MSDS for proper code numbers.



PROPANE



ADDENDUM

For additional information refer to:

- A. "Identification of the Fire Hazards of Materials" NFPA 704.
- B. "Hazardous Chemicals Data" NFPA 49.
- C. "Fire-Hazard Properties of Flammable Liquids, Gases and Volatile Solids" NFPA 325M.

NOTE: Identification sign information furnished by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), Quincy, MA.