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CAN/CGSB-3.14-2018

Supersedes CAN/CGSB-3.14-2013



Propane for fuel purposes

Canadian General Standards Board **CGSB**



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NATIONAL STANDARD OF CANADA

CAN/CGSB-3.14-2018

Supersedes CAN/CGSB-3.14-2013

Propane for fuel purposes

CETTE NORME NATIONALE DU CANADA EST DISPONIBLE EN VERSIONS
FRANÇAISE ET ANGLAISE.

ICS 75.160.20

Published August 2018 by the
Canadian General Standards Board
Gatineau, Canada K1A 1G6

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Acknowledgment is made for the translation of this National Standard of Canada by the Translation Bureau of Public Services and Procurement Canada.

This National Standard of Canada CAN/CGSB-3.14-2018 supersedes the 2013 edition.

Changes since the previous edition

- Added a warning statement that the maximum sulphur limit may be incompatible with new emission control technology that includes a catalyst.
- Added an option for H₂S testing by alternative analytical methods.
- Added an option for residue testing by gas chromatography.
- Eliminated thiophane as a potential odorant for propane.

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Propane for fuel purposes

1 Scope

This standard describes two grades of propane used for fuel purposes. These grades consist mainly of hydrocarbons containing three carbon atoms.

Grade 1 is intended for use in internal combustion engines and for general industrial and commercial fuel applications. Grade 1 maintains a minimum octane quality by limiting concentrations of low-octane components (see 6.5).

NOTE The requirements for Grade 1 are derived from the GPA Midstream Association GPA 2140 HD-5 specification.

Grade 2 is adequate for most industrial and domestic uses and may also be suitable for low severity internal combustion engine applications where a high-octane fuel is not required.

In view of the maximum sulphur level specified in this standard, fuel conforming to the standard may be unsuitable for spark-ignition motor vehicle engines with emission control technology that includes catalysts (see F7).

Users of this standard are advised to take appropriate measures to address health and safety concerns related to the use and handling of propane (see 8.3).

The testing and evaluation of a product against this standard may require the use of materials and/or equipment that could be hazardous. This standard does not purport to address all the safety aspects associated with its use. Anyone using this standard has the responsibility to consult the appropriate authorities and to establish appropriate health and safety practices in conjunction with any applicable regulatory requirements prior to its use.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions that, through references in this text, constitute provisions of this National Standard of Canada. The referenced documents may be obtained from the sources noted below.

NOTE The addresses provided below were valid at the date of publication of this standard.

An undated reference is to the latest edition or revision of the reference or document in question, unless otherwise specified by the authority applying this standard. A dated reference is to the specified revision or edition of the reference or document in question.

2.1 Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB)

CAN/CGSB-3.0 — *Methods of testing petroleum and associated products:*

No. 14.3 — *Standard test method for the identification of components in automotive gasoline using gas chromatography*

No. 18.5 — *Test for ethyl mercaptan odorant in propane, field method.*

2.1.1 Source

The above may be obtained from the Canadian General Standards Board, Sales Centre, Gatineau, Canada K1A 1G6. Telephone 819-956-0425 or 1-800-665-2472. Fax 819-956-5740. Email ncr.cgsb-ongc@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca. Website www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/index-eng.html.

It may also be obtained from the Government of Canada Publications, Publishing and Depository Services, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0S5. Telephone: 1-800-635-7943 or 613-941-5995. Fax 1-800-565-7757 or 613-954-5779. Email publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca. Website: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/home.html>.

2.2 Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

CSA B149.1 — *Natural gas and propane installation code*

CSA B149.2 — *Propane storage and handling code*.

2.2.1 Source

The above may be obtained from the Canadian Standards Association Group, 5060 Spectrum Way, Mississauga, ON, Canada L4W 5N6. Telephone 416-747-2496. Fax 416-305-6187. Website: <http://www.csagroup.org>.

2.3 ASTM International

Annual Book of ASTM Standards (See Annex A).

2.3.1 Source

The above may be obtained from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, U.S.A., telephone 610-832-9585, fax 610-832-9555, Website www.astm.org, or from IHS Markit, 200-1331 MacLeod Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 0K3, telephone 613-237-4250 or 1-800-267-8220, fax 613-237-4251, Website www.global.ihs.com.

2.4 GPA Midstream Association

RR-129 — *Human Response Research Evaluation of Alternate Odorants for LP-Gas*

GPA 2140 — *Liquefied Petroleum Gas Specifications and Test Methods*.

2.4.1 Source

The above may be obtained from GPA Midstream Association, Sixty Sixty American Plaza, Suite 700, Tulsa, OK, 74135, U.S.A., telephone 918-493-3872. Website <https://gpamidstream.org/>. Please note that on the GPA Midstream website, GPA 2140 is identified as S2140 when ordering the publication.

2.5 U.S. Department of Commerce

BERC/RI-77/1 — *A New Look at Odorization Levels for Propane Gas*.

2.5.1 Source

The above may be obtained from U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20230, U.S.A., telephone 202-482-2000. Email: webmaster@doc.gov. Website <https://www.commerce.gov/>

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this National Standard of Canada, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1**closed-loop side-stream sampler**

sample line connected to a storage tank or pipeline capable of extracting a sample and reinjecting any excess back into the product being sampled or elsewhere in the process.

3.2**LPG, LP gas or liquefied petroleum gas**

propane or mixtures consisting predominantly of hydrocarbons containing three or four carbon atoms.

3.3**propane**

in this standard, propane refers to a blend of propane, C_3H_8 , plus other hydrocarbons and naturally occurring non-hydrocarbons as allowed by the specified limiting values.

3.4**proportional sample**

sample made by combining samples in volumetric proportion.

3.5**recirculation loop**

pipng and a transfer pump configured into a loop and used to mix the propane in a storage tank by recirculating it from one part of the tank to another.

3.6**volume weighted average**

arithmetic average of results for samples taken from different batches or pipe flow for a specified time. The results are weighted to account for the volumes of the batches or total flow during the time period.

4 Classification

4.1 The propane shall be supplied in the following grades, as specified (see 8.1):

4.1.1 Grades

Grade 1

Grade 2.

5 General requirements

5.1 The propane shall be predominantly the chemical propane (Grade 1) or shall be predominantly a mixture of the chemicals propane and propene (Grade 2).

5.2 Additives may be utilized if usage of the desired dosage of the additive in propane does not increase the residual matter beyond the allowable limit (see 6.10, 8.2 a and 8.3.6).

5.3 Odorization

Propane shall be odorized prior to its sale as a fuel to allow detection in the atmosphere at concentrations above one fifth of the lower explosive limit of propane in air (see 6.12, E2 and F1).

6 Detailed requirements

6.1 The propane shall comply with the specified limiting values (see 6.5 to 6.12). The specified limiting values shall not be changed. This precludes any allowances for the test method precision and for adding or subtracting digits.

6.1.1 To determine conformance with the specified limiting values, an observed value or a calculated value shall be rounded off “to the nearest unit” in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specified limiting value, in accordance with the rounding-off method of ASTM E29.

6.1.2 Where test values differ between two parties, a resolution shall be in accordance with ASTM D3244 in order to determine conformance with the specified limiting values, with the criticality of the limits set at $P = 0.5$.

6.1.3 Zeroes trailing the last nonzero digit for numbers represented with a decimal point are significant digits, in accordance with ASTM E29.

6.2 Test methods other than those referenced in this standard may be used only if they have been validated in accordance with ASTM D3764 or D6708. These are referred to as validated test methods.

6.2.1 Differences in precision, sensitivity and bias between test methods referenced in the standard and the validated test methods shall be noted.

6.2.2 Validated test methods shall be used only within the bounds of the data covered in their validation.

6.3 In the event of a dispute, the procedures given in 6.1.1 to 6.1.3 shall be used.

6.3.1 If parties in a dispute cannot agree on an analytical method to resolve the dispute, the method listed in the standard shall be used. Where more than one method is listed for a given detailed requirement, the referee method shall be used.

6.4 Differences in precision, sensitivity and bias between the referee test methods and others referenced in the standard shall be considered.

6.4.1 Specific requirements are provided for hydrocarbon composition, sulphur and dryness test methods (see Annexes B, C and D).

		Specified limiting values				
Property	Grade 1		Grade 2		Test method	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.		
6.5	Composition ^a liquid, % by volume					ASTM D2163 CAN/CGSB-3.0 No. 14.3 ^g (Annex B)
	Propane (C ₃ H ₈)	90.	—	—	—	
	Propene (propylene)	—	5.0	(see 8.2 b)		
	Butane and heavier hydrocarbons	—	2.5	—	2.5	
6.6	Copper strip corrosion ^b , 1 h at 37.8°C	—	No. 1	—	No. 1	ASTM D1838

	Specified limiting values				
Property	Grade 1		Grade 2		Test method
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	
Hydrogen sulphide, one of the following:					
Lead acetate	Negative		Negative		ASTM D2420 ⁹
Gas chromatography / chemiluminescence, mg/kg	—	1.5	—	1.5	ASTM D5504 ASTM D5623 (Annex C)
Sulphur ^c , mg/kg (see F7)	—	123	—	185	ASTM D4468 ASTM D5453 ASTM D5623 ASTM D5504 ASTM D6667 ⁹ (Annex C)
Vapour pressure at 37.8°C, kPa	—	1435	—	1435	ASTM D1267 ⁹ ASTM D2598 ASTM D6897
Residual matter, one of the following shall be met					
Evaporation, mL/100 mL and	—	0.05	—	0.05	ASTM D2158 ⁹
Oil stain, using 0.3 mL of solvent-residue mixture	Pass		Pass		
Residue by gas chromatography, mg/kg	—	350	—	350	ASTM D7756
Dryness, (see 8.3.9), one of the following:					
Dew point, °C	—	-25	—	-25	ASTM D1142 ASTM D5454 (Annex D)
Valve freeze, 60 s	Pass		Pass		ASTM D2713 ⁹
Odorant, (see 5.3) ^{d,e} :					
Ethyl mercaptan ^f , mg/L	14	30	14	30	

- ^a The Grade 1 propane, butane and heavier hydrocarbons maximum limits cited equate to a minimum motor octane number of approximately 95 by the LPG motor method ASTM D2623-86, which was withdrawn in 1989.
- ^b This method may not accurately determine the presence of reactive materials (e.g. H₂S or elemental sulphur) in propane if the product contains corrosion inhibitors or other components that diminish the reaction with the copper strip.
- ^c The sulphur content shall include the contribution from the odorant. The total sulphur for a batch of odorized propane may be determined by adding the calculated sulphur contribution from odorant, based on the odorant addition rate, to the sulphur measured on the batch of propane at point of manufacture, prior to odorization. The increase in sulphur associated with ethyl mercaptan addition at the minimum specified level is 14.4 mg/kg.
- ^d See Annex F for more information on odorant addition. Odorant type and concentration specified in 6.12 meet the requirement of 5.3, based on the U.S. Department of Energy research report BERC/RI-77/1 and confirmed in subsequent studies, as reported in GPA Midstream Association RR-129.
- ^e Only the concentration of the listed odorant (i.e. ethyl mercaptan) shall be counted when calculating the amount of odorant required to meet the standard.
- ^f When reporting this parameter, metered (measured) volumes may be used in place of analytical tests when the component is added. Ethyl mercaptan odorant concentration may be verified during storage and distribution with stain tube field tests that are described in CAN/CGSB-3.0 No. 18.5. Analytical methods (see Annex C) may also be used.
- ^g Referee method to be used in the event of a dispute.

7 Inspection¹

7.1 Sampling

7.1.1 Sampling equipment and procedures shall be designed and used to obtain representative samples of the product and for preserving the integrity of the sample for the test being performed. Sampling equipment, lines, hoses, etc. should be adequately flushed prior to taking a sample.

7.1.2 A minimum sample size of 300 mL shall be taken for testing purposes by the testing laboratory, unless otherwise specified (see 8.2 c).

7.1.3 Samples for laboratory testing shall be obtained in accordance with ASTM D1265 (common 20% ullage, high-pressure sampling cylinders) or ASTM D3700 (floating piston, constant pressure cylinders).

7.1.4 Liquid-filled pressure-vented cylinders may also be acceptable for use (see F.2). Suitable safety precautions shall be taken to protect against any sample temperature increase (which could result in thermal expansion leading to liquid hydraulic “lock” and explosion) and uncontrolled venting. This provision is intended for sampling in hazardous locations or where sample toxicity precludes venting and when the analysis will be performed immediately after sampling. Liquid-filled pressure vessels shall not be used for sample storage or transport.

7.1.5 Inert sample containers may be used for trace analysis of reactive sulphur components (e.g. H₂S) that can undergo reaction with steel containers with prolonged storage prior to analysis. Polymer-coated (e.g. fluorocarbon or epoxy based coatings) or silica-coated steel cylinders have been successfully used for this purpose. Cylinders should be cleaned after each use.²

7.1.6 Closed-loop side-stream samplers designed to minimize volatile light-end losses during sampling may be used. The sample system shall be connected to on-line analyzers or sample collection systems in a manner that ensures sample integrity is maintained for the test(s) being performed.

¹ See ASTM D6849 to obtain guidance on procedures for the storage and use of propane in 18 L (20 lb) cylinders for quality control testing of propane.

² The following cylinder cleaning method has been successfully used: An equal mixture of acetone and toluene is poured into the cylinder, the valves closed and the cylinder shaken for approximately 30 s and then emptied. This is followed by an identical procedure using acetone. The cylinder is then dried by purging with air or nitrogen.

7.1.7 Samples may be taken from tank recirculation loops provided that the recirculation time and flow rate were sufficient to effect complete mixing of the product in the tank.

7.1.8 Results from on-line sampling may be obtained either as volumetric weighted averages of multiple determinations or as single determinations on volumetric proportional samples.

8 Options

8.1 The following option shall be specified in the application of this standard:

- a) Grade (see 4.1)

8.2 The following options may be specified:

- a) Addition and concentration of additives (see 5.2 and 8.3.6)
- b) Propene content for Grade 2 (see 6.5)
- c) Sample volume, if different than 300 mL (see 7.1.2).

8.3 Precautionary notes

8.3.1 See Annex F for additional precautions and warning statements on propane.

8.3.2 Propane is colourless and, without added odorant, can have low odour, making a leak hard to detect.

8.3.3 Propane vapour is heavier than air and initially tends to settle and accumulate in low points and cavities. Subsequent diffusion or convection can distribute propane vapour throughout an area.

8.3.4 A propane spill can create localized gas pockets that increase the risk of an ensuing fire or explosion.

8.3.5 Propane is stored under pressure as a liquid. Storage and handling requirements are detailed in CSA B149.2. Installation requirements are detailed in CSA B149.1.

8.3.6 Additives and other compounds boiling above about 200°C can accumulate in vaporizing systems and interfere with proper equipment operation. In vaporizing systems operating at elevated temperatures, additives and compounds boiling above 350°C have been shown to lead to deposit formation³. See F5.3 for additional information.

8.3.7 Contact with liquid propane can cause freezing “burns” or frostbite to skin and eyes.

8.3.8 Trace levels of carbonyl sulphide (COS) can be present in propane. While COS in propane is not itself corrosive towards copper, it can hydrolyze and react to produce H₂S, which is corrosive. Higher concentrations of COS can be tolerated in propane because the rate of conversion to H₂S is normally low. However, traces of free water, methanol, caustic, other sulphur species often found in commercial propane, and catalytically active surfaces can, under some conditions, increase the rate of conversion considerably. There have been reports from industry that propane has become corrosive towards copper during storage, distribution or use, especially after different batches of propane containing different reactive sulphur species were mixed. Propane containing less than 50 ppm COS is believed to present a very low risk of developing corrosivity towards copper. Propane containing greater than 100 ppm COS presents a greater risk under typical commercial circumstances. COS can be determined in propane by various gas chromatographic analytical test methods such as ASTM D5504 and D5623.

³ Southwest Research Institute Final Report to the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), Investigation of Fuel System Technologies and Fuel Composition Effects on the Ability of Propane Forklifts to Meet 2007 EPA Emission Standards, July 2006.

8.3.9 The use of methyl alcohol (methanol) to prevent freezing

Grade 1 and Grade 2 propane should be produced to comply with the moisture content requirement in 6.11. An anti-freeze additive such as methyl alcohol (methanol) should not routinely be used to pass the dryness test requirement. Grades 1 and 2 propane should be so dry that they are sub-saturated with water at most ambient temperatures. They should be maintained dry during storage and distribution.

During short-term upsets in production, or inadvertent contamination by trace water during storage or distribution, addition of 50 ppm methyl alcohol has proven to be an effective solution. The presence of methyl alcohol can prevent separated water from freezing and can allow use of propane containing excessive dissolved water in many applications. For guidance, based on historical experience and phase separation data, the maximum cumulative addition of methyl alcohol should not exceed 200 ppm by volume.

An anti-freeze additive such as methyl alcohol should not be added to propane without specific agreement and approval of the purchaser.

Annex A

(normative)

Referenced ASTM International publications (see 2.3)

Annual Book of ASTM Standards

ASTM D1142	Standard Test Method for Water Vapor Content of Gaseous Fuels by Measurement of Dew-Point Temperature
ASTM D1265	Standard Practice for Sampling Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases (Manual Method)
ASTM D1267	Standard Test Method for Gage Vapor Pressure of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases (LP-Gas Method)
ASTM D1838	Standard Test Method for Copper Strip Corrosion by Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases
ASTM D2158	Standard Test Method for Residues in Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases
ASTM D2163	Standard Test Method for Determination of Hydrocarbons in Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases and Propane/Propene Mixtures by Gas Chromatography
ASTM D2420	Standard Test Method for Hydrogen Sulfide in Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases (Lead Acetate Method)
ASTM D2598	Standard Practice for Calculation of Certain Physical Properties of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases from Compositional Analysis
ASTM D2623-86	Method for Knock Characteristics of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases by the Motor (LP) Method (Withdrawn 1989)
ASTM D2713	Standard Test Method for Dryness of Propane (Valve Freeze Method)
ASTM D3244	Standard Practice for Utilization of Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
ASTM D3700	Standard Practice for Obtaining LPG Samples Using a Floating Piston Cylinder
ASTM D3764	Standard Practice for Validation of Process Stream Analyzer Systems
ASTM D4468	Standard Test Method for Total Sulfur in Gaseous Fuels by Hydrogenolysis and Rateometric Colorimetry
ASTM D5453	Standard Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Motor Fuels and Oils by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
ASTM D5454	Standard Test Method for Water Vapor Content of Gaseous Fuels Using Electronic Moisture Analyzers
ASTM D5504	Standard Test Method for Determination of Sulfur Compounds in Natural Gas and Gaseous Fuels by Gas Chromatography and Chemiluminescence
ASTM D5623	Standard Test Method for Sulfur Compounds in Light Petroleum Liquids by Gas Chromatography and Sulfur Selective Detection

ASTM D6667	Standard Test Method for Determination of Total Volatile Sulfur in Gaseous Hydrocarbons and Liquefied Petroleum Gases by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
ASTM D6708	Standard Practice for Statistical Assessment and Improvement of Expected Agreement Between Two Test Methods that Purport to Measure the Same Property of a Material
ASTM D6849	Standard Practice for Storage and Use of Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG) in Sample Cylinders for LPG Test Methods
ASTM D6897	Standard Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG) (Expansion Method)
ASTM D7756	Standard Test Method for Residues in Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases by Gas Chromatography with Liquid, On-Column Injection
ASTM E29	Standard Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications.

Annex B

(normative)

Application of gas chromatography test methods in the standard (ASTM D2163 and CAN/CGSB-3.0 No. 14.3)

B.1 Gas Chromatography (GC) methods for testing against the standard should baseline-resolve⁴ C₃ and C₄ saturates and mono-olefin components, and detect components up to C₇ to the nearest 0.1% by volume. Direct liquid injection is preferred over gas injection to enable measurement of higher molecular weight (non-volatile) components if present. Methods using Flame Ionization Detectors (FID) may use theoretical Relative Response Factors (RRF) based on the methane standard, and calculation methods according to CAN/CGSB-3.0 No. 14.3. Methods using other detectors may be cross validated with a GC-FID method using the methane standard RRFs or a calibrant mixture according to the procedures outlined in ASTM D2163. Molecular separation or GC baseline resolution is not required for methods with deconvolution capabilities provided that the responses are proportional to those obtained with the above GC-FID methods. On-line versions of these methods are acceptable provided that the requirements of 6.2 and 7.1 are met.

⁴ See ASTM D2163.

Annex C

(normative)

Application of sulphur test methods in the standard (ASTM D4468, D5453, D5504, D5623 and D6667)

C.1 Commercially available equipment used for determining sulphur in natural gas, such as ASTM D4468 (rateometric) and D5504 (GC/chemiluminescence), may be used with calibration against reference materials to determine the total sulphur, hydrogen sulphide, carbonyl sulphide and/or the ethyl mercaptan content of propane. Direct liquid injection is preferred over gas injection to enable measurement of higher molecular weight (less volatile) components if present.

Annex D

(normative)

Application of dryness test methods in the standard (ASTM D1142, D2713 and D5454)

D.1 No precision data are available for ASTM D2713 (valve freeze) because it is a pass/fail test. Therefore, 6.4 cannot be invoked to allow the validation of other methods.

D.2 No precision data are available for ASTM D1142 (chilled-mirror dew point) or for ASTM D5454 (electronic moisture analyzers). Electronic hygrometers (moisture analyzers, dew-point meters, etc.) are acceptable alternative test methods provided that validation is demonstrated using a reference material, or by performing a two-point calibration using “zero” and the concentration of water at saturation in propane. The intent is to enable operators to verify proper instrument operation during normal application.

Annex E (informative)

Federal, provincial and territorial regulations applicable to propane^{5, 6, 7}

E.1 Federal regulations

E.1.1 *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*⁸ — These regulations give detailed packaging, labelling and documentation requirements for transporting dangerous goods, including propane samples, within Canada.

E.2 Provincial and territorial regulations

E.2.1 CSA B149.1 — Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code⁹

CSA B149.2 — Propane Storage and Handling Code⁹

E.2.1.1 The odorization of propane for fuel purposes is a legal requirement in all Canadian jurisdictions, with each province and territory in Canada referencing a version of CSA B149.1 or CSA B149.2 in gas safety, building codes or related regulations. The appropriate provincial or territorial regulator should be consulted regarding current and relevant regulations to ensure compliance.

E.2.1.2 CSA B149.2 requires that propane distributed **for fuel purposes** be odorized in accordance with this standard.

E.2.1.3 CSA B149.2 exempts odorant in propane at petroleum refineries, pipelines, pipeline or marine terminals, refrigerated or underground storage facilities and propane when used as a feedstock in chemical plants.

E.2.1.4 CSA B149.2 requires that persons transferring propane from one container to another hold a pressure-vessel certificate recognized by a jurisdictional authority.

⁵ The regulations listed are subject to revision by the relevant authority. The user should consult the relevant authority to confirm the current regulations. The information provided about the regulations is for information only. In case of conflict, the text of the regulation takes precedence.

⁶ The requirements in jurisdictions other than those listed above will be added as information becomes available in future revisions or amendments to this standard.

⁷ Federal Acts and Regulations may be obtained from the Department of Justice Canada, Communications Branch, Web site <http://laws-loisjustice.gc.ca/eng/index.html>. If this Web site becomes inoperative, the Canadian Legal Information Institute Web site at www.canlii.com may also be useful.

⁸ Available from Canadian Government Publishing, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5, Canada, telephone 1-800-635-7943 (North America only) or 613-941-5995, fax 1-800-565-7757 (Canada only) or 613-954-5779. The Regulations are also available on-line from Transport Canada's Web site at www.tc.gc.ca

⁹ This publication may be obtained from the Canadian Standards Association (see 2.2.1).

Annex F (informative)

Additional precautions and warning statements

F.1 Odorants

F.1.1 Odorants are not always effective as warning agents. The odorants are polar or chemically reactive or both, and can be depleted by reaction or adsorption. People differ in their ability to smell, and the sensitivity to odours generally decreases with age or with impaired physical conditions, such as colds or respiratory allergies. Prolonged exposure to odorants can cause olfactory desensitization. Other odours or distractions can reduce the effectiveness of odorants as warning agents.

F.1.2 Technical grade odorants are typically 95% pure and can contain solvents, diluents and markers. Any components added to odorants should not be deleterious to either the end use of the propane or to the effectiveness of the odorant.

F.2 Transportation of dangerous goods

F.2.1 For the transportation of propane samples between Canada and another country, both Canadian and international regulations can apply.

F.2.2 Liquid-filled pressure-vented cylinders (cylinders equipped with a pressure-relief valve, with or without a 20%-ullage tube, and filled to capacity with liquid propane) may only be used within production facilities and for local transport between production facilities as allowed by jurisdictional authorities. Liquid-filled pressure-vented cylinders are not acceptable for transportation by common carrier because of the possibility of venting from thermal expansion.

Fill densities should be established for road, marine or air transport using one of the following:

- a 20%-ullage tube, also called a “dip tube” (see ASTM D1265);
- a floating piston position (see ASTM D3700);
- a mass (weight) (see ASTM D3700);
- other means specified in TDG regulations or by other transport jurisdictional authorities.

F.2.3 Consult the jurisdictional authority for pressure vessel certification requirements for propane sample cylinders (Transport Canada within Canada). There is no international approval process for pressure cylinders. Authorities in one jurisdiction may not approve cylinders approved by another jurisdiction. Cylinders require approval by all the jurisdictions in which they are used for transporting samples.

Cylinders approved by a jurisdictional authority under “equivalent safety” criteria are acceptable provided that they are used in accordance with the applicable permits or exemptions. For example, users may not subsequently alter valves or pressure-venting devices that are part of a permit or exemption. Periodic cylinder inspections may be required.

F.3 Metering odorants

F.3.1 Metered injection systems are recommended for the odorization of propane. Odorant may be added by mass or volume, and the metered amounts may be used for reporting the amount of odorant and sulphur added.

F.3.2 Note that the thermal expansion coefficient of propane is larger than that of the specified odorant. Injector systems that operate on volume-to-volume ratios calibrated at 15°C will over-inject by about 7% at -40°C and under-inject by about 2.5% at 30°C. A suitable offset may be required to assure conformance with the standard if calibration is done at lower temperatures or if injection occurs at a temperature very different from the calibration temperature.

F.4 Asphyxiant and anaesthetic properties

F.4.1 Propane will displace air and can act as an asphyxiant. Lack of oxygen (hypoxia) can cause dizziness, headaches, diminished awareness, faulty judgment, increased fatigue, impaired muscular co-ordination progressing to convulsion, coma and death.

F.4.2 Propane is believed to be a central nervous system depressant (“anaesthetic gas”) at high (explosive) concentrations, and can cause such symptoms as light-headedness, dizziness, drunkenness, sleepiness or intoxication, which can impair a person’s judgment.

F.4.2.1 Any person working with propane or in close proximity to a propane source (filling cylinders, purging lines, lighting or adjusting pilot lights, investigating leaks, etc.) who feels these symptoms should go immediately to a safe location with fresh air. This “narcotic” or “intoxicating” effect is expected to be temporary and rapidly disappear in fresh air.

F.5 Solid residues in LPG systems

F.5.1 Naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM)

Sludges and tank scale from propane storage tanks, trucks and rail cars, and filters and screens can contain NORM in the form of lead 210 (^{210}Pb). Equipment used for transferring propane, such as product pipelines, pumps and compressors, can also have detectable levels of radioactive ^{210}Pb on inner surfaces.

F.5.1.1 Workers involved in cleaning, repairing or other maintenance on inner surfaces of such equipment should avoid breathing dust generated from such activities. For example, protection can take the form of wearing a suitable mask or wetting work surfaces to eliminate dust.

F.5.2 Solid residues and magnetic residues (“Black deposits”)

Solid residues can physically block the operation of components such as regulators, mixers and pressure release valves.

F.5.2.1 Magnetic iron oxide and sulphide residues can occur from heat treating during tank manufacture (“mill scale”) or from corrosion. These residues can adversely impact the operation of magnetically operated components such as level gauges and electronic solenoid valves.

F.5.3 Organic residues

Non-volatile additives and soluble contaminants in propane used in vaporizing systems tend to accumulate at the point of vaporization as a residue or gum that can interfere with the proper and safe operation of some equipment. These contaminants, especially in association with fine particulates, can interfere with the proper operation of safety lock-offs, overpressure vents and regulators. This usually occurs at the point in the system where chilling occurs because of the auto-refrigeration of vaporizing propane.

Certain higher boiling or polymeric materials can interfere with the catalytic elements of some heating equipment.

F.6 Ammonia contamination

F.6.1 Ammonia (NH_3) can cause stress corrosion cracking of brass valves and fittings when present at approximately 5 ppm or higher by volume in propane. Ammonia should not be present in propane, and therefore, it should not be necessary to test for its presence in production of propane batches. However, rail or truck tanks previously used to transport anhydrous ammonia can contaminate propane if they are not properly cleaned prior to being put into propane service.

F.6.2 When contamination by ammonia is suspected, the following test should be performed:

- a) Arrange a stream of propane vapour in a safe location;
- b) Holding a piece of red litmus paper with clean tweezers, wet it with distilled water;
- c) With the tweezers, hold the wet litmus paper in the stream of propane vapour for 30 seconds;
- d) The appearance of any blue colour on the litmus paper indicates that ammonia is present at a minimum concentration of 1 ppm to 2 ppm, and the propane is not recommended for use in normal propane fuel systems.

F.7 Use of propane in engines with emission control technology

The sulphur level of fuel conforming to this standard (see 6.8) may or may not be suitable for spark-ignition engines with emission control technology that includes catalysts.

Excessive sulphur levels will cause poisoning of the catalysts used in after-treatment systems and result in reduced conversion efficiency, which will increase exhaust emissions.