



Measurement
Canada

Mesures
Canada

An Agency of
Industry Canada

Un organisme
d'Industrie Canada

Buying Propane for Your Barbecue



Fair Measure
For All



La mesure juste
pour tous

Canada

How Is It Sold?



In Canada, several methods of sale have been used for the filling of propane cylinders. The following four methods of sale were deemed to be **acceptable in the past:**

- Propane sold by volume, on the basis of the quantity delivered.
- Propane sold by weight, on the basis of the quantity delivered.
- Cylinder exchange programs, where an empty cylinder is exchanged for a cylinder that has been filled and marked with a net weight prior to being offered for sale.
- Propane sold at a fixed price for filling a cylinder to 42% of its marked water capacity (WC), commonly referred to as the "fill" method. For many years, this was the most common method of sale. Using this method, you paid a flat fee on the premise that your cylinder would be filled to 42% of its marked water capacity, regardless of whether the cylinder contained any residual propane or not. A typical example of this was the "20 pound fill" for "X" dollars.



January 2000 and the "Fill" Method

The "fill" method of sale is no longer acceptable due to the introduction of internal safety mechanisms, called Overfill Prevention Devices (OPDs), installed in propane cylinders since 1998. Overfill Prevention Devices, which are becoming more and more prevalent, will prevent cylinders from being filled to their nominal capacity (42% WC).



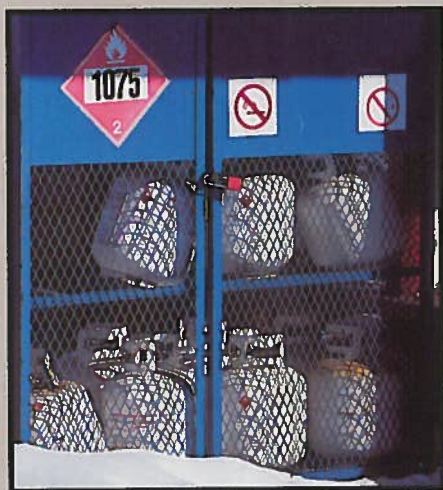
As a result, since January 1, 2000, retailers have been required to use one of the three remaining methods of sale listed at left. These are all based on the net quantity delivered.

To Receive Accurate Measure

When you have your cylinder filled, it is most likely to be done on the basis of weight. If this is the case, you can expect the following whether you have an older cylinder or a newer one equipped with an OPD:

- the scale to be located so that you can clearly view the measurement process and results;
- the scale to bear a Weights and Measures verification mark, indicating that it has been inspected;
- the attendant to weigh your cylinder and any residual propane (empty weight), without the delivery hose attached;

- the attendant to connect the delivery hose and fill the cylinder while it sits on the scale;
- either the attendant or the OPD, if so equipped, to stop the filling process when the quantity of propane in the cylinder has reached the maximum safe fill level;
- the attendant to remove the delivery hose and reweigh your cylinder (filled weight);
- to be informed of the amount of propane that has been delivered into your cylinder (filled weight minus empty weight);
- if you are not present during the measurement process, to be provided with a written or printed statement of the quantity of propane delivered.



Safety First

Basic safety precautions should always be followed when transporting and/or storing a propane cylinder. For instance, **CYLINDERS SHOULD ALWAYS BE TRANSPORTED AND STORED IN AN UPRIGHT AND SECURED POSITION, IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA.**

For More Information

For more information, contact the Measurement Canada office nearest you. We are listed in the blue pages of your telephone directory, under "Industry Canada" in the Government of Canada section.

Or visit the Measurement Canada Web site (<http://mc.ic.gc.ca>).

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