

CHAPTER 347.

PETROLEUM.

The Petroleum Regulations.

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THE PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

made by the Governor in Council under section 26 on the 5th July, 1930, and amended on the 19th March, 1934, 10th July, 1947, and 9th January, 1953.

Regs. 5th
 July, 1930.
 19th March,
 1934.
 14 of 1947.
 1 of 1953.

1. These regulations may be cited as the Petroleum Regulations. Short title.

IMPORTATION AND TRANSPORTATION.

2. Notice of the arrival at any port in the Colony of a vessel having on board petroleum as cargo shall be given by the master thereof to the Comptroller or other officer of Customs at such port. Notice to be given of arrival of a vessel having petroleum on board.

3. The master or some other responsible officer of such vessel shall be constantly in charge of the vessel while there is any petroleum aboard and until any tanks which have contained petroleum have been sealed. Neither petroleum nor the water used in cleaning any petroleum tank shall be allowed to run into any dock, or near any stelling in any river. If the vessel is fitted with electric light, no other light shall be used on board until all the petroleum has been discharged. If not so fitted, the permission of the officer of Customs as aforesaid shall be obtained before any light is used on board. Master or responsible officer to be in charge.

Permission to be obtained before repairs to storage tanks are undertaken.

4.—(1) The permission of the Comptroller of Customs must be obtained before any repairs to any tank which has contained petroleum are undertaken on board of a vessel while in port, and no one shall be allowed to enter any such tank without his express authority. Before any one is allowed to enter such tank it shall be thoroughly ventilated and found, after test by a competent person, to be free from all traces of petroleum vapour.

(2) The use of fires for heating or soldering, etc., must be restricted to what is absolutely necessary.

(3) No naked light or wires as a wandering lead used for conducting electricity shall be taken into any such tank. Only portable safety lamps shall be used.

Transportation of petroleum in bulk.

5. Petroleum in bulk shall not be carried in the Colony except on a vessel certified as suitable for the purpose by the Harbour Master or any other officer appointed by the Governor in that behalf, and the petroleum shall be stowed in such part of the vessel and under such conditions as the Harbour Master or such officer shall direct.

Time of loading and discharging petroleum from a vessel. Regs. 1 of 1953.

6. No petroleum shall be loaded on or unloaded from any vessel in any port of the Colony between six o'clock in the afternoon of one day and six o'clock in the forenoon of the following day.

Importation of dangerous petroleum. Regs. 14 of 1947.

7. No dangerous petroleum shall be introduced into the Colony unless it is contained within strong iron or steel drums of not more than one hundred and ten gallons capacity, or in tins containing not more than five gallons packed in wooden cases, all so constructed and packed as to prevent any leakage of petroleum or escape of vapour therefrom:

Provided that this regulation shall not apply to dangerous petroleum when introduced into the Colony stored in bulk within a vessel.

Importation of petroleum in bulk. Regs. 14 of 1947.

8. Receipt and discharge of petroleum stored in bulk within a vessel shall be effected by pipeline only and shall be subject to any directions issued by the Harbour Master, or any other officer appointed by the Governor in that behalf, either generally or in respect of any particular vessel.

Permission to remove dangerous petroleum.

9.—(1) It shall not be lawful to remove dangerous petroleum in quantities exceeding twenty gallons from any warehouse or licensed building to any other place without a written order

from the officer in charge of the warehouse or the licensee of the licensed building authorising such removal and specifying in each case—

- (a) the description of the petroleum;
- (b) the quantity to be removed;
- (c) the destination;
- (d) the time within which removal is to be effected;
- (e) the number of packages, their contents and distinguishing marks;
- (f) any precautions ordered by the Commissioner of Police to be taken by the person removing such petroleum to protect the goods from ignition and to give notice to the public that dangerous goods are being conveyed.

(2) The person removing such petroleum shall be given and shall carry such order with him.

10. No person shall transport petroleum in drums or packages in any vehicle unless such drums or packages are stowed on such vehicle in an upright position and in such manner as to be rendered immobile.

Method of transporting petroleum. Regs. 1 of 1953.

11. (a) Any vessel used for the purpose of keeping dangerous petroleum, not being the fuel tank of a motor vehicle, motor boat, aircraft or engine, or any vessel used for the purpose of keeping methylated spirits, ether or carbon bisulphide shall bear in conspicuous characters the words "petroleum spirit", "methylated spirits", "ether" or "carbon bisulphide" as the case may be, together with the words "highly inflammable" indelibly marked on the vessel, or, where that is impracticable, on a metal label attached thereto.

Distinguishing marks for dangerous petroleum. Regs. 1 of 1953.

(b) No person shall repair or cause to be repaired any vessel in which to his knowledge, any dangerous petroleum, methylated spirits, ether or carbon bisulphide is, or has been kept, until he has taken all reasonable precautions to ensure that the vessel has been rendered free from dangerous petroleum, methylated spirits, ether or carbon bisulphide and from any inflammable vapour occasioned thereby.

Precautions to be observed. Regs. 19th March, 1934. 1 of 1953.

12. No person shall transport more than ten gallons of dangerous petroleum or more than one hundred and fifty gallons of ordinary petroleum between the hours of six o'clock in the afternoon of one day and six o'clock in the forenoon of the following day without a written permit in that behalf from the person in charge of a police station:

Transportation of dangerous petroleum at night.

Provided that nothing herein shall apply to petroleum in the tank of a motor vehicle or motor boat or to petroleum as cargo on board any vessel.

Penalty.

13. Any person responsible for the contravention of any of the provisions of the foregoing regulations shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars.

HAWKING.

Vessels used for hawking dangerous petroleum.

14.—(1) No dangerous petroleum shall be hawked other than in cans either sealed or having gas-tight screw stoppers of not more than two gallons capacity, unless in any case the Commissioner of Police has approved of such petroleum being carried in a tank or tanks and such tank or tanks and any apparatus for filling the same and for the delivery of petroleum therefrom has or have been examined and approved by a person appointed in that behalf by him and is or are maintained in good condition.

(2) The amount of dangerous petroleum being hawked at any time by any person shall not exceed fifty gallons.

(3) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this regulation shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars.

LICENCES.

Application for licence. Regs. 14 of 1947.

15. Every application for a licence under the Petroleum Ordinance shall be forwarded to the Director of Public Works, and if the licence is applied for under section 6 (3) of the Ordinance such application shall be accompanied by the following particulars—

(a) Site plan showing position of proposed building with figured distances from same to existing buildings in close proximity.

(b) Drawings showing plan, elevation and section, and specification of the proposed building which must be in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

(c) The maximum quantity and kind or kinds of petroleum it is desired to store within the building.

Consideration of application.

16.—(1) In considering whether a licence should be issued in pursuance of any such application regard shall be had to the proximity of the proposed building to other buildings, the construction and height of such other buildings and the purposes for which they are used, the quantity and kind of petroleum to be stored and the accessibility of fire-fighting appliances.

(2) If the Director of Public Works approves of the site and of the plan and specification he may issue a licence forthwith, if the building be already existing, or may cause the applicant to be informed that a licence will be issued if and when a building shall be erected on the site in accordance with the plan and specification. Regs. 14 of 1947.

(3) If the Director of Public Works approves of the site, but not of the plan or specification, he may cause the applicant to be informed of any modifications required to be made and that a licence will be issued if and when a building in accordance with such modified plan or specification stands on the site. Regs. 14 of 1947.

(4) Before issuing a licence in respect of any building the Director of Public Works may direct an inspection of such building and the site thereof to be made by any person. Regs. 14 of 1947.

17. If erections in the vicinity are altered or others constructed near a licensed building the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade may call upon the licensee to erect screen walls around the licensed building or effect other measures to resist any possible extension of fire. Additional works to licensed buildings.

STORAGE.

18.—(1) All due precautions shall be taken by every person in charge of petroleum for the prevention of accidents from fire or explosion, and warehouses and licensed buildings shall be enclosed or protected in such a way as to prevent any unauthorised person having access to or approaching close to receptacles containing petroleum whether in storage or being filled from or emptied into other receptacles. Precautions to be taken to prevent accidents from fire or explosion.

(2) No leaking tin, drum or other receptacle shall be placed or allowed to remain in any warehouse or licensed building.

(3) An air space of at least one-tenth of its capacity shall be left in each receptacle when filling such receptacle with dangerous petroleum.

(4) Proper care shall be taken when storing, cleaning or draining any receptacle or curtilage thereof to prevent any petroleum escaping into any drain, sewer or river.

(5) Licensed buildings shall be used for no purpose other than the storage or sale of petroleum.

(6) Efficient means of preventing, curtailing and extinguishing fire shall be provided and constantly maintained in proper condition by the licensee at every licensed building. Requirements in this respect shall be stated on every licence.

Copy of licence to be displayed in conspicuous position. Regs. 14 of 1947.

19. The licensee shall affix or hang up in a conspicuous position in or near the licensed building a copy of the licence and such excerpts of the Ordinance and these regulations as the Director of Public Works may direct.

Penalty.

20. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of regulations 15 to 19 shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.

LICENSED BUILDINGS.

Alterations to licensed buildings. Regs. 14 of 1947.

21. No alterations or additions shall be made to any licensed building unless permission has first been obtained in writing from the Director of Public Works.

Inspection of licensed buildings.

22.—(1) It shall be lawful for any officer of the Police Force or of the Fire Brigade in Georgetown or New Amsterdam or any member of the Police Force authorised by any such officer or any other person authorised by the Governor to inspect at any reasonable time any licensed building for the purpose of seeing that these regulations are being carried out.

(2) It shall be lawful for the Director of Public Works or an officer appointed by him to inspect at any reasonable time any licensed building for the purpose of seeing that it is properly maintained. If in the opinion of any such person the regulations are not being complied with, or the building requires repairs or renewals, such omissions, repairs or renewals shall on request be immediately attended to, and any of the persons aforesaid may order the licensed building to be closed to all persons not engaged in the work of carrying out his demands.

Ventilation.

23.—(1) All licensed buildings shall be provided with roof ventilation and with floor ventilation where practicable.

(2) Vent pipes from storage tanks are to be conveyed independently of the ventilation of any structure around or over them.

(3) All vent pipes shall be fitted with double diaphragms of a strong wire gauze, or an approved valve and so conveyed and terminated in a position not easily accessible, as to prevent any evaporation from the petroleum forming a dangerous mixture with the air in or about any building in the vicinity.

Construction of storage tanks.

24. All receptacles composing or within a licensed building shall be of metal, concrete or other incombustible material, and shall be tested before use and proved to be perfectly tight

and staunch; but dangerous petroleum and ordinary petroleum shall be stored in metal receptacles only. Any supports to such receptacles shall be of incombustible material.

25.—(1) When dangerous petroleum is stored or transported in cans, steel drums or barrels, the thickness of the metal shall not be less than the following—

Thickness of metal cans and drums.

When the capacity does not exceed 5 gallons	27	Birmingham Wire Gauge.
When the capacity exceeds 5 gallons but not 11 gallons	20	” ” ”
When the capacity exceeds 11 gallons but not 33 gallons	16	” ” ”
When the capacity exceeds 33 gallons but not 55 gallons	14	” ” ”
When the capacity exceeds 55 gallons but not 110 gallons	12	” ” ”

(2) When ordinary petroleum is stored or transported in cans, steel drums or barrels the thickness of the metal shall not be less than the following—

When capacity does not exceed 5 gallons	27	Birmingham Wire Gauge.
When the capacity exceeds 5 gallons but not 11 gallons	20	” ” ”
When the capacity exceeds 11 gallons but not 33 gallons	19	” ” ”
When the capacity exceeds 33 gallons but not 55 gallons	16	” ” ”
When the capacity exceeds 55 gallons but not 110 gallons	14	” ” ”

26. Every tank constructed of mild steel which must comply with the British Standard Specification shall be properly bolted, rivetted, caulked or welded together, and stiffened with mild steel angles, stays or supports so that the following calculated stresses are not exceeded—

Mild steel storage tanks.

PLATES, ANGLES, STAYS AND SUPPORTS.

In tension	6.5 tons per square inch.
„ compression	5.5 ” ” ” ”
„ sheer	4.0 ” ” ” ”

RIVETS.

In sheer 4.5 tons per square inch.

„ bearing stress 10.0 „ „ „ „

Provided that no plates shall be less than 14 Birmingham Wire Gauge.

Provision for reinforced concrete or cast iron storage tanks.

If tanks are to be of a substance other than mild steel a full specification and detailed working drawings for their construction or manufacture are to be submitted to the Director of Public Works, and his approval obtained before they are constructed.

Classes of licensed buildings. Underground building.

27.—(1) All licensed buildings shall be underground buildings or above-ground buildings.

(2) A building shall be deemed to be an underground building when the top of the receptacles containing the petroleum, or the chamber, if any, containing the receptacles, is at least nine inches below the level of the surrounding ground and covered to or above ground level with a substantial covering of earth, sand, concrete or other incombustible material. Such nine inches shall include the thickness of the chamber, if any, which shall be constructed of incombustible material. There shall be no voids in such covering other than those necessary for manholes, or for pipes necessary for ventilation, filling and emptying the receptacles and draining the chamber. All manholes shall be fitted with gas-tight covers of incombustible materials.

Above-ground building.

(3) Every building shall be deemed to be an above-ground building which does not satisfy the conditions for an underground building.

UNDERGROUND BUILDINGS.

Filling and emptying from underground buildings.

28. The filling and drawing off of the petroleum shall be carried out by means of pipes having tight joints to the receptacles at one end and terminating at or above ground level at the other.

Thickness of metal storage tanks where inaccessible.

29. When easy access to all parts of a receptacle is not possible for the purpose of inspection and painting, the thickness of the metal, if the receptacles are of mild steel, shall not be less than 12 Birmingham Wire Gauge.

ABOVE-GROUND BUILDINGS.

Provision to prevent petroleum escaping from an above-ground building.

30. All receptacles used for the storage of dangerous petroleum or ordinary petroleum shall be supported upon a floor of concrete or other impervious and incombustible material extending at least six inches beyond the projected plan of the receptacles. Such floor shall have a continuous dwarf wall around same of impervious and incombustible materials, so

that with the floor it forms an open-topped tank which is capable of holding at least the quantity of petroleum which the building is licensed to store: Provided that such dwarf wall shall not be necessary when the licensed building is not in close proximity to any other building and is surrounded by a continuous and substantial dam, embankment or wall, within which there are no other buildings.

31. Doors to any licensed building or enclosure connected therewith, shall open outwards and shall be kept free from obstruction whether opened or closed. They shall be of such width as to permit of easy ingress and egress of barrels, drums, or other portable receptacle used in connection with the licensed building. If necessary for this purpose the doorway shall be provided with ramps.

Doorways
to above-
ground
buildings.

CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

32.—(1) Any vessel used for containing carbide of calcium shall bear in conspicuous characters the words "carbide of calcium" and "dangerous if not kept dry" indelibly marked on the vessel, or, if that is impracticable, on a metal label attached thereto.

Vessels
used for
containing
carbide of
calcium.
Regs. 1 of
1953.

(2) No person shall repair or cause to be repaired any such vessel until he has taken all reasonable precautions to ensure that the vessel has been rendered free from carbide of calcium and from any inflammable vapour occasioned thereby.

Regs. 1 of
1953.

33.—(1) No person shall keep carbide of calcium in quantities exceeding 5 pounds in any building other than a warehouse or licensed building.

Storage of
carbide of
calcium in
building
other than
a ware-
house or
licensed
building.
Regs. 1 of
1953.

(2) Where any person keeps carbide of calcium in quantities not exceeding 5 pounds in any building other than a warehouse or licensed building, the carbide of calcium shall be kept in separate hermetically closed vessels, and every such vessel shall contain not more than 1 pound of carbide of calcium.

(3) Where carbide of calcium is kept on any premises used as a welding workshop—

Regs. 1 of
1953.

(a) all such carbide of calcium not in actual use shall be kept in hermetically closed vessels as aforesaid, and every such vessel shall be kept in a dry and well ventilated place;

(b) adequate precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorised persons from having access thereto;

(c) the occupier of the premises shall give notice in writing to the local authority of the place in which such premises are situate that carbide of calcium is kept on such premises;

(d) where a fixed generator is used on the premises, full and complete instructions supplied by the maker thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous part of the premises so that such instructions may be conveniently referred to by any person operating such generator;

(e) no fixed generator shall be used on such premises without a certificate from the Director of Public Works that the generator is fit for use. Every such certificate shall remain in force for a period of 12 months; and

(f) any person authorised in writing by the Director of Public Works in that behalf may at all reasonable times enter such premises wherein a fixed generator is used, for purposes of inspection.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO VESSELS LADEN WITH PETROLEUM.

Precautions with respect to vessels laden with petroleum. Regs. 1 of 1953.

34.—(1) Where any vessel is moored alongside any wharf or stelling in the Harbour of Georgetown, and such vessel contains dangerous petroleum or ordinary petroleum as cargo, the following minimum precautions shall be taken—

(a) the vessel shall be continuously under close supervision;

(b) each vessel shall be fitted with fire extinguishers of the foam type readily available for immediate use and where the vessel contains—

(i) not less than 40 gallons of dangerous petroleum or ordinary petroleum but not more than 200 gallons, it shall be fitted with at least two two-gallon fire extinguishers;

(ii) not less than 200 gallons of dangerous petroleum or ordinary petroleum but not more than 500 gallons, it shall be fitted with at least four two-gallon fire extinguishers; and

(iii) over 500 gallons of dangerous petroleum or ordinary petroleum, it shall be fitted with at least six two-gallon fire extinguishers;

(c) all mooring cables, ropes and lines shall be so attached that the vessel can be quickly set free and towed to a place of safety;

(d) the vessel shall be so moored that it can be moved away from its mooring to a place of safety at any state of the tide;

(e) if more than one vessel is tied up at the mooring then the vessel containing dangerous or ordinary petroleum must lay on the outside (nearest the stream);

(f) there shall be no smoking and no naked light of any kind allowed on the vessel;

(g) the senior non-commissioned officer at the Central Fire Station, Georgetown, must be informed before six of the clock in the afternoon on the day in question of the location of any vessel laden with dangerous petroleum or ordinary petroleum which is moored in the Harbour.

(2) Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this regulation shall render the master of the vessel or the person for the time being in charge of the vessel liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of fifty dollars. Regs. 1 of
1953.

GENERAL PENALTY.

35. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of regulations 21 to 33 inclusive shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars. Penalty.
Regs. 1 of
1953.
