Labeling of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Packaged In Portable Cylinders & Refill and Exchange of LPG Cylinders

Last Revision: January 30, 2014

Background

Inspections have revealed a significant number of portable cylinders (formerly known as 20 lb. cylinders) of LPG short weight. Many shortages appear to be caused by improper weighing procedures (e.g., leaving the fill nozzle attached during the final process), inaccurate tare weights, and scale inaccuracies.

The FTC exempts bottled gas used for heating and cooking from the definition of a consumer commodity, and NIST Handbook 130 does not address the issue of declaration of responsibility being on individual cylinders.

Policy

1) The tare weight shall be plainly and conspicuously labeled on the outside of the container, either directly marked on the cylinder itself or by an attached tag.

2) If the distributor claims a net weight of over 17.5 lbs, they need to establish tare weight as they fill and label the cylinder with that tare weight, rather than assuming the stamped tare weight is accurate.

3) Returned cylinders at exchange sites must be clearly designated in the cage as empty. Examples of clear designation include but are not limited to: a separate section of the cage for empties or a tamper evident cap. It is unsafe to place empty cylinders upside down, due to the possibility of liquid discharge.

4) Each cylinder must be labeled with a net weight either on the container or on a tag attached to the container.

5) A declaration of responsibility shall be either attached to or conspicuously posted where the LP’s displayed for sale or exchange.

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