

An old one but a good one

An Airstreamer recently had an experience in getting his lay down (horizontal) gas bottles filled on his 1998 Limited trailer. He thought sharing his experience may be of interest to those of you who have horizontal gas bottles. (Those manufactured before Oct 1, 1998) As you know there is no OPD valve made for these bottles. On occasion he encounters someone who is reluctant to fill his LP bottles. The last time he was in Missouri at a Flying J. the attendant said, "You know, I am not supposed to fill these without the OPD valve." He had recently had refresher training, and there is no exception to the rule, even for horizontally mounted bottles. The Airstreamer asked who had provided the training - the propane supplier or State of Missouri?

He said Ferrellgas.

The Airstreamer wrote and ask me, "What can you suggest to those of us who might be stranded some day?" The folks who service RV propane bottles see very few of this type of bottle and are unsure what to do. On one occasion someone started to service his bottle in the horizontal position.

What can you do to help educate the filler/supplier and make it easier to get your horizontal bottles filled?

1. Have exemption labels attached to your bottles
2. Have copy of DOT regulations.



DOT regulation for horizontally mounted bottles

Some refill stations are reluctant to fill this type of bottle so you may want to carry the page of the DOT reg which exempts them. Most stations know about the exemption as there are no OPD devices to retro-fit these bottles. The regulation is DOT 58-12 Par 2.3.1.5 exception No. 2.

NFPA 58 (2004 Edition)
HORIZONTAL CYLINDER EXCEPTION
AS STATED IN SECTION 5.7.6.5, Page 58-17

The following types of cylinders shall be exempt from the requirements of 5.7.6.1 through 5.7.6.5 for installing a listed overfilling prevention device:

1. Cylinders used in industrial truck service and cylinders identified and used for industrial welding and cutting gases.
2. Cylinders manufactured prior to October 1, 1998, and designed for use in the horizontal position and where an overfilling prevention device is not available.

National Fire Protection Association

NFPA 58
2004 Edition



Exemption Label

Airstream Part number for Exemption label-56761W

Labels should be available from your propane supplier or can be purchased through Airstream.

If you have an older RV you should know that according to Federal law, DOT cylinders may only be used for 12 years after their manufacture date and then need requalified. The requalification requirement is 10 years for Transport Canada.

After that, the cylinders must be "re-certified" which provides another five years of use. The cylinders can be re-certified every five years thereafter.

Propane dispensers are legally required to look at the date stamped on the cylinder before filling it. Some dealers actually do look. Some don't. Check the date stamped

on your cylinders... they may not match rig's model year even if the cylinders came with your RV. It's possible they are older than your Airstream.

Re-certification is usually done by the large bulk propane suppliers but some local RV repair shops could also be certified (requalified) to do the job and most will recertify them for free!

Please check the dates on your bottles if you haven't recently.

All cylinders should undergo a simple visual inspection prior to being filled.

The filling station technician does have the final decision on filling or not filling any LP bottle regardless of age if he does not feel it is safe.

They will be checking the gas bottle for:

1. Damage to the exterior of the bottle including dents, bulges or cracks on the container's surface.
2. Excessive rust or pitting on the cylinder, particularly on the bottom of the bottle
3. Condition(bent,missing) of a cylinder foot ring, cylinder collar, valve cover
4. The date the cylinder was manufactured or recertified.
5. Required cylinder markings and readability.
6. OPD valve (if required and not grandfathered as lay down bottles).