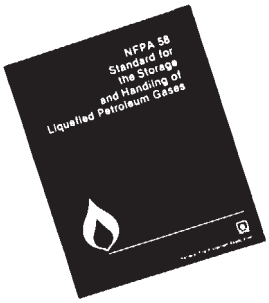
ECII® Safety Warning



Purpose

In its continuing quest for safety, Engineered Controls International, Inc. publishes a series of bulletins explaining the hazards associated with the use, misuse, and aging of LP-Gas valves and regulators. It is hoped that these factual bulletins will make clear to LP-Gas dealer managers and service personnel, that the utmost care and attention must be used in the installation, inspection, and maintenance of these products, or problems could occur which would result in injuries and property damage.

The National Fire Protection Association Pamphlet #58, "Storage and Handling Of Liquified Petroleum Gases" states in Section 1-6 that "In the interest of safety, all persons employed in handling LP-Gases shall be trained in proper handling and operating procedures." These "ECII® Safety Warnings" may be useful in training new employees and reminding older employees of hazards that can occur.

It is recommended that all employees be furnished with a copy of NPGA Safety Pamphlet 306-88 "LP-Gas Regulator and Valve Inspection and Maintenance."

Nature of Warnings

It is recognized that warnings should be as brief as possible, but factors involved in filler valve and filling valves failure are not simple. They need to be fully understood so that proper procedures and maintenance can be used to prevent accidents. If there is a simple warning, it would be:

Loosen filling valve from filler valve very slowly. If there is a leak, know procedure to follow.

This bulletin is not intended to be an exhaustive treatment of the subject of filler valves and certainly does not cover all safety practices that should be followed in the installation, operation and maintenance of LP-Gas systems, which include filler and filling valves.

Hose-End Filling Valves With ACME Connectors

Hose-end valves must never be dragged over the ground or dropped or banged into the truck when the hose is reeled in.

They could open accidentally or they could be damaged. Dragging will cause abnormal wear and eventual valve failure. Foreign material will lodge in the connector which can cause failure of the filler valve.

To prevent hazardous conditions, operators should follow this procedure on every filling application:

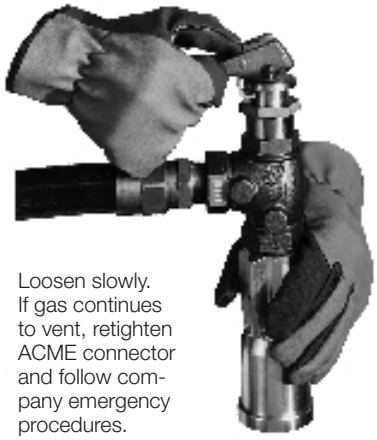
- Always wear gloves and eye protection.
- Check for foreign material in hose-end valve and the filler valve, and if present, remove with extreme care. If material cannot be safely removed, do not proceed with filling and replace valve.
- Make sure the ACME connector spins on easily by hand.
- If leak is noticed when filling is started, stop the operation and correct the leaking condition.
- After filling, bleed the gas trapped between the filler valve and hose-end valve by using the vent on the hose-end valve or by slightly loosening coupling nut to vent the gas before disconnecting.
  If gas does not stop venting, then filler valve or hose-end valve is leaking. Do not disconnect filling connector. This is a hazardous situation and your company procedure for handling this problem must be carefully followed.
  Make sure your company has such a procedure.

Inspection of Filling Valves with Handwheel

- Valves should be inspected at least once a month to be sure the valve handle is tight and not damaged, that the stem is not bent and that there is no "play" in the threads in the bonnet. "Play" will normally not be noticed if the valve is under pressure.
- The ACME threads should be examined for wear, dents or nicks and the seating area should be clean and smooth.

Inspection of Quick Acting Filling Valves

- Valves should be inspected daily to make sure locking mechanism functions properly.



Loosen slowly. If gas continues to vent, retighten ACME connector and follow company emergency procedures.

- The ACME threads should be examined for wear, dents or nicks and the seating area should be clean and smooth.
- The retaining ring on the filler connection should be examined to make sure it is properly holding the female ACME rotating nut or handle so as to keep the surface that seats on the filler valve gasket protected.
- If any problems are evident, valves should be immediately replaced or repaired.

Larger Filler and Filling Valves

For 2¼" and 3¼" valves with ACME connections, use only the special wrenches designed for the purpose.

Do not use pipe wrenches or hammers to tighten the connections. All of the previous warnings about the smaller valves also apply here.

General Warning

All ECII® products are mechanical devices that will eventually become inoperative due to wear, contaminants, corrosion and aging components made of materials such as rubber and metal. The environment and conditions of use will determine the safe service life of these products. Periodic inspection and maintenance are essential. Because ECII® products have a long and proven record of quality and service, LP-Gas dealers may forget the hazards that can occur because a filler valve or a filling valve is used beyond its safe service life. Life of these valves is determined by the environment in which they "live." The LP-Gas dealer knows better than anyone what this environment is.

Note: There is a developing trend in state legislation and in proposed national legislation to make the owner of products responsible for replacing products before they reach the end of their safe useful life. LP-Gas dealers should be aware of the legislation which could affect them.