

Storage and Use of Gasoline for Generators

Managers should ensure that fire prevention plans include any gasoline stored for emergency generators. Section 854 of the ELM explains fire prevention plans. Safety inspection checklists available on the Safety Resources Page (see below) cover fire prevention plans and inside and outside storage of flammable liquids. The pending revision to MS-46 also addresses flammable liquid storage--an excerpt is provided below. It tracks the applicable OSHA standards (e.g. 1910.106).

Storage of gasoline in large quantities may trigger environmental requirements, including the development of a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan. Consult your Area Environmental Compliance Specialist.

Safety Specialists can assist with storage and use requirements.

http://safetytoolkit.usps.gov/toolkitweb/hr_dev/tk1_3/home_pg/Safety_Checklists/Checklist_main.htm (Open a checklist for large facilities and scroll down to fire prevention and flammable storage.)

Gasoline is a Class IB flammable liquid. Below is the information in MS-56 (pending revision) which addresses inside storage requirements for flammable liquids.

332 Flammable Liquid

A flammable liquid is defined as any liquid having a flashpoint below 100 ° F.

Table 3-2

Classifications of Flammable Liquids

CLASS	FLASH POINT (°F)	BOILING POINT (°F)	EXAMPLES
IA	below 73	below 100	Butane, Ethyl Ether, Ethane
IB	below 73	at or above 100	Acetone, Ethanol, Gasoline
IC	at or above 73	below 100	Xylene, Formic Acid, Turpentine

340 STORAGE

341 Inside Storage

This section applies to the storage of flammable and combustible materials in postal owned or leased facilities. Items that would be expected to be stored indoors include solvents and lubricating oils.

341.1 Containers

Flammable and combustible materials must be stored in approved tanks, safety cans or other containers.

The quantity for each type of container (glass, safety can, tank) is shown in Table 3-3.

**Table 3-3
Maximum Container Volume**

Container Type	Flammable Liquids			Combustible Liquids	
	Class 1A	Class 1B	Class 1C	Class II	Class III
Glass or Approved Plastic	1 pint	1 quart	1 gallon	1 gallon	1 gallon
Metal (not DOT drums)	1 gallon	5 gallon	5 gallon	5 gallon	5 gallon
Safety Can	2 gallon	5 gallon	5 gallon	5 gallon	5 gallon
Metal Drums (to DOT Specifications)	60 gallon	60 gallon	60 gallon	60 gallon	60 gallon
Approved Portable Tanks	660 gallon	660 gallon	660 gallon	660 gallon	660 gallon

If the material is used outside of an indoor storage room, or a storage cabinet in a building, or in any one fire area of a building, the quantity must not exceed the following:

- a. 25 gallons of Class IA materials in approved containers.
- b. 120 gallons of Class IB, IC, II, or III liquids in containers.
- c. 660 gallons of Class IB, IC, II, or III liquids in a single portable tank.

