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# Attended Self Service Gas Station Guide

Office of the Maine State Fire Marshal

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## Attended Self Service

### Operating Requirements for Attended Self-Service Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities

At least one attendant must be on duty while the self-service facility is open for business. The attendant's primary function is to supervise, observe, and control the dispensing of Class I Liquids while the liquid is dispensed.

The responsibility of the attendant is to:

- prevent the dispensing of Class I Liquids into portable containers not in compliance;
- prevent the use of hose nozzle valve latch-open devices that do not comply with proper standards;
- control sources of ignition;
- immediately activate emergency controls and notify the fire department of any fire or emergency; and
- handle accidental spills and fire extinguishers.

The attendant or supervisor on duty must be mentally competent and physically capable of performing the functions and assuming the responsibility prescribed in this section.

Operating instructions must be conspicuously posted in the dispensing area.

An automatic-closing-type hose nozzle valve, listed in accordance with UL 842, Standard for Valves for Flammable Fluids, with or without latch-open device, is required on island-type dispensing devices used to dispense Class I or Class II Liquids.

Class I or Class II Liquids cannot be dispensed into portable containers unless the container is constructed of metal or is approved by the authority having jurisdiction. The portable container must have a tight closure and be fitted with a spout, or so designed, to allow contents to be poured without spilling. During the dispensing operation, the hose nozzle valve must operate manually.

No sale or purchase of any Class I, Class II, or Class III Liquids shall be made in containers that are not clearly marked with the name of the product contained therein.

Portable containers of 45 L (12 gal) capacity or less cannot be filled while they are in or on a motor vehicle or marine craft.

### Special Regulations for Attended Self-Service Gasoline Facilities

**A.** No one shall construct, reconstruct, convert or alter any service station to provide attended self-service gasoline

dispensing without first notifying the Office of the State Fire Marshal in writing of the type and address of the facility.

**B.** Every gasoline service station shall be under the direct control of the owner, operator or duly authorized employee who must be on duty at all times gasoline is being sold or dispensed.

**C.** Each facility must be equipped with a fixed fire extinguishing system installed in accordance with **NFPA #30A**, Code for Motor Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages, 2008 edition. The system shall provide protection for all pumps in the dispensing area. Each extinguisher head shall be installed in such a manner that an accumulation of ice or snow will not adversely affect the proper functioning of the system.

**D.** The number of nozzles capable of simultaneous operation may not exceed sixteen nozzles per operator on duty in islands open to use, and no more than eight nozzles may be in use at one time.

**E.** The controlling mechanism console and its related equipment must be listed by Underwriters Laboratories (or other recognized agency applying an equivalent test).

**F.** In addition to the required operating instructions set forth in **NFPA #30A**, signage shall include a requirement that the

user stay in view of the fueling nozzle during dispensing.

**G.** The controlling console providing power to the pump motor must be monitored by the owner, operator or duly authorized employee at all times while gasoline is being dispensed and properly protected against physical damage from motor vehicles.

**H.** There must be constant contact by the control console operator and the pump island by means of inter-communication system that must be maintained in proper operating condition.

**I.** The control console operator must observe the filling operation of each vehicle. Mirrors are not acceptable as providing adequate visual control.

**J.** The control console must include a disconnect switch capable of instantly disconnecting all pumping power.

**K.** The primary fire department having jurisdiction or providing mutual aid in the area in which a proposed self-service station is to be located must be informed of such proposal and the requirements of all local ordinances must be met.

**L.** An automatic-closing type hose nozzle valve listed with United Laboratories (or other recognized agency applying an equivalent test) with latch-open device may be installed.

### **25 §2485. Violations**

A person who violates a provision of this subchapter or a rule adopted pursuant to this subchapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged for each offense.



For more information contact:

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