

RULES OF SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

CHAPTER 120-3-14

RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR
NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 120-3-14-.01 Promulgation and Purpose**
- 120-3-14-.02 Definitions**
- 120-3-14-.03 Reporting of Fires and Serious Accidents**
- 120-3-14-.04 Compliance with Local Codes**
- 120-3-14-.05 Adopted Codes**
- 120-3-14-.06 Permit Requirements for Dispensing Compressed Natural Gas for Vehicular Fuel.**
- 120-3-14-.07 Submission of Plans**
- 120-3-14-.08 Request for Modification of Specific Requirements**
- 120-3-14-.09 Penalties**
- 120-3-14-.10 Severability**
- 120-3-14-.11 Forms**

120-3-14-.01 Promulgation and Purpose

- (1) These Rules and Regulations for Natural Gas Systems are promulgated by the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 25-2-4.
- (2) The purpose of these rules and regulations is to provide precautionary and protective techniques that are reasonable and practical measures for the prevention of injury to persons and property from fire and related hazards incident to the installation of natural gas appliances and piping and the use thereof. These rules and regulations supersede former rules and regulations promulgated by the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner pertaining to Natural Gas Systems and Vehicular Fuel Systems when such are in conflict with these rules and regulations.

120-3-14-.02 Definitions

The definitions contained herein are in addition to and in clarification of those contained in the adopted code.

- (1) **PERSONS.** Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, and any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.
- (2) **COMMISSIONER.** The Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner.
- (3) **AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION.** The State Fire Marshal of Georgia.
- (4) **NFPA.** The National Fire Protection Association.

120-3-14-.03 Reporting of Fires and Serious Accidents.

Every person who owns, operates or is responsible for a natural gas system or appliance covered by this Chapter and who suffers a fire or serious accident involving natural gas shall notify the State Fire Marshal's Office as soon as possible but not later than eight hours of the incident occurring. In addition to the initial notification, every person who owns, operates or is responsible for a natural gas system



or appliance covered by this Chapter and who suffers a serious accident involving natural gas shall make a written report thereof to the State Fire Marshal within 72 hours. A serious accident shall be one which results in loss of life, hospitalization, or damage to property involving \$5,000.00 or more. This applies to piping systems as defined in NFPA 54 and CNG dispensing stations as defined in NFPA 52.

120-3-14-.04 Compliance with Local Codes

Whenever counties, municipalities or other local authorities have adopted recognized standards or codes such as the Georgia State Heating and Air Conditioning Code, Georgia State Gas Code or the Southern Standard Gas Code, compliance with such local standards or codes shall be in addition to compliance with the National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA Number 54 (1996 Edition) and NFPA 52 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems (1995 Edition).

120-3-14-.05 Adopted Codes and Modifications

- (1) Except to the extent modified herein, NFPA Number 52 (1995 Edition), entitled "Standards for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems" and NFPA Number 54 (1996 Edition), entitled "National Fuel Gas Code" are hereby adopted with the following modifications.
- (2) Amend NFPA 52, Section 4-4.3.12 to read as follows, A Indoor Fast Fill Fueling , Outdoor Storage and Compression Fast Fill fueling is permitted when storage and compression equipment is located outdoors complying with the provisions of NFPA 52, Sections 4-4.2.1, 4-4.2.2, 4-4.2.3, 4-4.2.4, 4-4.2.5. 4-4.2.6 and 4-4.2.7. (Added per recommendation of W. Peters of Atlanta Gas Light and the position of the NFPA 52 technical committee)
- (3) Amend NFPA 52, Section 4-4.3.13 to read as follows, AWhere attended fast fill fueling is performed:
 - (a) An emergency manual shut-down device shall be installed as required by Section 4-4.11.6.
 - (b) A gas detection system equipped to sound an alarm and visually indicate when a maximum of one-fifth of the lower flammable limit is reached shall be installed. The detector shall shut down the compressor and stop the flow of gas into the structure. (Added per recommendation of W. Peters of Atlanta Gas Light and the position of the NFPA 52 technical committee)

120-3-14-.06 Permit Requirements for Dispensing Compressed Natural Gas for Vehicular Fuel

- (1) It is prohibited for any person to dispense compressed natural gas in the state of Georgia except by authority of a written permit issued by the State Fire Marshal in conformance with these rules and regulations.
- (2) An application for a permit to dispense compressed natural gas for vehicular fuel shall be submitted to the State Fire Marshal.
- (3) Upon receipt of a properly executed application for a permit to dispense compressed natural gas, the State Fire Marshal may make, or cause to be made, an investigation for the purpose of ascertaining if the requirements of these rules and regulations have been complied with, and issue the permit before the system may begin operation.

120-3-14-.07 Submission of Plans/Fees

Complete plans and specifications for all systems involving the storage of motor fuel (CNG) shall be submitted in duplicate to and receive approval by the State Fire Marshal before installation is started. Such plans shall be drawn to scale and be of sufficient detail and clarity as necessary to indicate the nature and character of the proposed system and its compliance with this Chapter. One copy of the plans shall be retained by the State Fire Marshal and one copy shall be returned to the applicant with the approval or disapproval indicated thereon. A copy of the approved plans shall be kept available at the construction site for inspection by authorized representatives of the State Fire Marshal. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-4.1, the plans for each storage facility shall be accompanied by a plan review fee



payable to the Safety Fire Commissioner. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-16, the plans shall bear the seal and Georgia registration number of the drafting architect or engineer or shall otherwise have the approval of the Safety Fire Commissioner or his designee.

120-3-14-.08 Request for Modification of Specific Requirements

Upon receipt of a sworn affidavit from the owner stating all relevant facts and circumstances and such other information as may be required, the State Fire Marshal may recommend to the Commissioner that specific requirements of this Chapter and the NFPA codes adopted herein be modified to allow alternative arrangements that will secure as nearly equivalent measures as practical for the prevention of injury to persons and property. The Commissioner in his discretion may accept the State Fire Marshal's recommendation and grant the requested modification.

120-3-14-.09 Penalties

After notice and hearing provided in accordance with Rule 120-3-2-.02 of the Rules of Safety Fire Commissioner, any person who is found to have violated any of the rules contained in this Chapter shall be subject to such penalties as authorized by law or Regulation.

120-3-14-.10 Severability

If any rule or portion thereof contained in this Chapter is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the rules herein and the applicability of such provisions to other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

120-3-14-.11 Forms

The following form is incorporated to implement this Chapter and O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-4.1:

TITLE	FORM NUMBER
Application for Compressed Natural Gas Storage/Dispensing Permit	SFD 389

- NOTES:**
1. The NFPA codes adopted in this Chapter are on file in the Office of the State Fire Marshal and are available for viewing.
 2. Copies of the NFPA codes may be obtained from:

National Fire Protection Association
Batterymarch Park
Quincy, Massachusetts 02269
Phone: 1-800-344-3555

A price list of NFPA codes and standards is available at the Office of the State Fire Marshal for viewing.

If you are an individual with a disability and wish to acquire this publication in an alternative format, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Safety Fire Division, Office of Commissioner of Insurance, No. 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, 404 656-2056, TDD 404 656-4031.

