

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Department of Public Safety and Corrections Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission

Class I-E Permit (LAC 55:IX:Chapter 1 )

The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, has exercised the emergency provision in accordance with R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, to amend LAC 55:IX:Chapter 1, as authorized by R.S. 40:1846. Furthermore, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, hereafter referred to as the "Commission", has found an immediate need to adopt amendments to create an additional Class I permit, the Class I-E permit, the provisions of which are applicable to emergencies and/or disasters.

In August and September 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a State of Emergency in Louisiana due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Laura and its aftermath. Concurrently, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a State of Emergency in Louisiana for the same reasons. Furthermore, President Donald J. Trump invoked the Stafford Act and declared a national emergency regarding Hurricane Laura and its aftermath, which has caused destruction and devastation to the lives and property of Louisiana residents.

Again, on October 6, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Delta. On October 7, 2020, Governor Edwards made a request for presidential emergency disaster to President Donald J. Trump to which President Trump approved said request. On October 9, 2020, Hurricane Delta, the record-tying fourth storm of 2020 to strike Louisiana, made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane near Creole, Louisiana.

As such, the residual effects of the storms present a substantial risk to the health, safety and welfare of a significant number of citizens in our state. Many people were forced to evacuate their homes and businesses, including numerous individuals who own, operate, and work in the liquefied petroleum gas trade, commonly known as the propane industry. From dealers whose businesses are currently inoperable to displaced employees who delivered propane and serviced tanks, the industry now faces a shortage in the workforce.

Liquefied petroleum gas, also referred to as propane or butane, is an efficient energy source used in home and water heating appliances and cooking equipment such as stoves and grills. In times of emergencies and/or disasters, it is also used to operate generators and power temporary/transient housing, such as FEMA trailers. Therefore, it is an imminent peril to the public health, safety and welfare that the industry supply the necessary propane needed to fulfill the supply and demand necessitated at this time. Due to the shortage of personnel, it is crucial to permit additional, qualified individuals from other jurisdictions.

In particular, the Emergency Rule amends LAC 55:IX:Chapter 1, Section 107, to permit nonresidents in other jurisdictions to enter any phase of the liquefied petroleum gas business during an emergency and/or disaster, only after the Commission has reached a reciprocal agreement with the liquefied petroleum gas regulating authority of the state in which the permit applicant resides. The Class I-E permit is an exception to the Class I permit, as

it omits the requirement that holders of the permit provide a storage capacity for liquefied petroleum gas of not less than 15,000 gallons in one location, under fence, located within the dealer trade area within the state of Louisiana. It also excludes the requirement that the permit holder show evidence of ownership of the storage tank, or in the alternative, a bona fide lease of five years minimum. This requirement is not applicable due to the fact that the Class I-E permit is only valid during an emergency and/or disaster and is issued for a period of 90 days. However, the permit may be renewed, prior to its expiration date, during the course of the emergency and/or disaster that it was initially applied for.

The adoption of this Rule on an emergency basis is also necessary due to the hazardous components of liquefied petroleum gas, which are flammable mixtures of hydrocarbon. As a result of the storm, many propane tanks may have been dislodged or flooded. In haste to evacuate, some may have failed to shut off the main gas supply valve to their homes or on propane tanks. In addition, water and debris may have inundated regulators and controls, causing potential safety issues, requiring a qualified propane dealer or service technician to inspect the propane system to ensure it is leak free. Fallen trees and power lines can create further safety concerns. The Commission finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety and welfare requires adoption of this Rule. The Emergency Rule was adopted and became effective September 8, 2020, upon the signature of the agency head, John W. Alario, Executive Director. It is necessary to continue the provisions of this Emergency Rule, effective February 9, 2021, until the adoption of the final Rule, or 120 days, whichever comes first.

#### Title 55

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Part IX. Liquefied Petroleum Gas

#### Chapter 1. General Requirements

#### Subchapter A. New Dealers

A. The following terms, as used in this Part, have the meanings listed below.

\* \* \*

*Disaster*—the result of a natural or man-made event which causes loss of life, injury, and property damage, including but not limited to natural disasters such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high winds, and other weather related events, forest and marsh fires, and man-made disasters, including but not limited to nuclear power plant incidents, hazardous materials incidents, oil spills, explosion, civil disturbances, public calamity, acts of terrorism, hostile military action, and other events related hereto.

\* \* \*

*Emergency*—the actual or threatened condition which has been or may be created by a disaster or; any natural or man-made event which results in an interruption in the delivery of utility services to any consumer of such services and which affects the safety, health, or welfare of a Louisiana resident; or

a. any instance in which a utility's property is damaged and such damage creates a dangerous condition to the public;

b. any national or state emergency, including acts of terrorism or a congressional authorization or presidential declaration pursuant to the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

\* \* \*

*State of Emergency or Disaster*—any event declared by the governor of the state by his authority under the "Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act" under R.S. 29:721 et seq.

\* \* \*

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972, amended December 1974, amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, LR 24:459 (March 1998), LR 29:2508 (November 2003), LR 31:2556 (October 2005), LR 33:1139 (June 2007), effective July 1, 2007, LR 36:2571 (November 2010), LR 38:1255 (May 2012), LR 47:

#### **§107. Requirements**

A. Before any permit or registration may be issued from the office of the director, all applicants shall have complied with or agree to comply with the applicable requirements as follows:

1. Shall deposit filing fee of \$100 for Class I, I-E, IV and VI; \$50 for class VI-X and \$25 for all remaining permits. This fee shall accompany the application.

2. - 5.b. ...

c. Each location of Class I, Class I-E, Class VI and Class VIII dealers, which fill DOT specification cylinders of 200 lbs. or less, liquefied petroleum gas capacity, that are in commerce or transportation, shall provide a suitable weighing device (scales).

6. Applicants shall have paid a permit fee in the amount of \$150, Class I-E and Class III which shall be \$500 and R-1, R-2 registrations, which shall be \$37.50 and Class VI-X shall be in the amount of \$150 for each location. For fiscal year 2014-2015, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the permit fee shall be 0.1369 of 1 percent of annual gross sales of liquefied petroleum gas with a minimum of \$150 for each location. For classes not selling liquefied petroleum gases in succeeding years the permit fee shall be \$150, except registrations shall be \$37.50 per year.

6.a. - 10. ...

11. Applicants for change of name shall deposit a filing fee of \$25 with a formal application for a name change. The office of the director shall administratively grant the name change after all commission requirements are met. The commission shall ratify the name change at the next commission meeting after which a minimum of 20 days have elapsed since the administrative granting of the name change. A representative of the new firm or corporation shall be required to be present when the application is ratified by the commission, except in the cases of Class VI-X, and R-1 and R-2 registrations, when appearance is waived. All certificates of competency shall be changed to new name, except Class VI-X which does not require certificates of competency.

12. ...

13. The commission shall grant Class I and Class I-E Liquefied Petroleum Gas permits to nonresident applicants only after the commission has reached a reciprocal agreement with the Liquefied Petroleum Gas regulating authority of the state in which the applicant resides.

14. - 15. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972,

amended December 1974, LR 1:315 (July 1975), LR 4:86 (March 1978), LR 7:633 (December 1981), amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, LR 11:557 (May 1985), LR 15:854 (October 1989), LR 16:1063 (December 1990), LR 20:1400 (December 1994), LR 24:461 (March 1998), LR 24:2311 (December 1998), LR 25:1262 (July 1999), LR 25:2410 (December 1999), LR 26:1487 (July 2000), LR 27:2256 (December 2001), LR 28:2553 (December 2002), LR 29:2509 (November 2003), LR 31:2567 (October 2005), LR 33:1140 (June 2007), effective July 1, 2007, LR 35:2201 (October 2009), LR 35:2465 (November 2009), LR 38:1256 (May 2012), LR 41:395 (February 2015), LR 42:427 (March 2016), LR 42:1671 (October 2016), LR 43:967 (May 2017), LR 46:188 (February 2020), LR 47:

#### **§109. Compliance with Rules**

A. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement for all permit holders.

B. - D. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972, amended December 1974, amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, LR 11:557 (May 1985), LR 25:2411 (December 1999), LR 31:2567 (October 2005), LR 38:1259 (May 2012), LR 46:188 (February 2020), LR 47:

#### **§111. Re-Application**

A. Any person, firm or corporation who has made application for a permit to enter the liquefied petroleum gas business and whose request for permit has been denied, may resubmit a permit application 90 days after the date of denial, with the exception of a Class I-E permit application. Any person, firm or corporation who has made application for a Class I-E permit to enter the liquefied petroleum gas business and whose request for permit has been denied, may resubmit a permit application any time during the same disaster and/or emergency that the initial permit application was submitted to the commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972, amended December 1974, LR 7:633 (December 1981), LR 38 1259 (May 2012), LR 47:).

#### **§113. Classes of Permits and Registrations**

A. - A.1.f. ...

2. Class I-E. Holders of these permits may enter any phase of the liquefied petroleum gas business. These permits shall only be granted during an emergency and/or disaster. These permits are valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. Permits may be renewed prior to the expiration date of the permit during the course of the emergency and/or disaster that it was initially applied for.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 coverage per:

- i. products;
- ii. manufacturers and contractors; and
- iii. automobile liability.

b. Where fuel is used direct from cargo tank, an approved valve with proper excess flow device shall be used. Connector to vehicle's engine shall be approved for such use and protected from mechanical injury.

c. No truck shall be parked on a street or highway at night in any city, town, or village, except for the purpose of serving a customer.

d. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

e. The name of the dealer shall appear on all tank trucks, storage tank sites, and/or advertising being used by the dealer. At consumer premises, where the tank or the container is owned by the dealer, the dealer's name shall be affixed. This requirement is considered met if documentation is provided, upon demand, that the dealer's name was affixed at the time of installation. Consumer premises requirement is not retroactive.

3. Class II. Holders of these permits may install and service liquefied petroleum gas containers, piping, and appliances but shall not sell nor deliver gas with this permit. This class is also applicable to the installation and service of liquefied petroleum gas containers, piping, and appliances on mobile homes, modular homes, manufactured homes, motor homes, travel trailers homes or any other recreational vehicles.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 coverage per:

- i. products;
- ii. manufacturers and contractors; and
- iii. motor vehicle liability.

b. Louisiana manufacturers and dealers of mobile homes, manufactured homes, modular homes, motor homes, travel trailers, or any recreational vehicles shall comply with all state and federal safety standards and perform all safety tests on mobile homes, modular homes, manufacture homes, motor homes, travel trailers, or any recreational vehicles using liquefied petroleum gas.

c. Upon delivery of a mobile home, manufactured homes, modular homes, motor home, travel trailer, or any other recreational vehicle, new or used, the required installation report and inspection and testing of any liquefied petroleum gas system and appliances shall be performed by the dealer or any entity performing functions as a dealer using liquefied petroleum gas in the system. An installation report properly completed and signed by the customer or his/her authorized representative shall be sent to the office of the director verifying that the tests were performed and that the test was eye witnessed by the customer or his/her authorized representative.

d. The mobile home, manufactured homes, modular homes or recreational vehicle dealer or entity performing functions as a dealer shall have a permit with this commission and is responsible to this commission to make the required installation report, perform the required inspection and safety tests, or make arrangements for it to be made by a qualified permit holder.

e. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

4. Class III. Brokers/Special Vendors. Holders of these permits may purchase liquefied petroleum gas only from dealers who hold a valid liquefied petroleum gas permit and resell the aforementioned purchased liquefied petroleum gas product to end users utilizing floor maintenance machines and/or industrial trucks (forklifts) on their premises. Holders of these permits shall not deliver gas or engage in repairing liquefied petroleum gas containers or systems.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per products liability coverage.

b. Shall submit a completed "location approval form" for each physical location being served, with a handling fee of \$150 for each location being served.

c. Compliance with all other statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

d. Shall provide 24 hour emergency contact information at each liquefied petroleum gas storage location. The person deemed the emergency contact shall have basic knowledge regarding liquefied petroleum gas emergencies and shall maintain contact information per the servicing liquefied petroleum gas supplier.

e. The Class III permit holder shall post the servicing liquefied petroleum gas supplier's name (name on Louisiana liquefied petroleum gas permit) at each liquefied petroleum gas storage site and each end user's location.

5. Class IV. Resellers (Wholesalers). Holders of these permits may deliver and transport liquefied petroleum gas over the highways of the state; may sell liquefied petroleum gases only to manufacturers of liquefied petroleum gases, or manufacturers of products which liquefied petroleum gases form a component part, or to dealers who hold a permit with this commission; utilize aboveground steel storage and/or approved salt dome, shale and other underground caverns for the storage of liquefied petroleum gases; do general maintenance work on their equipment, using qualified personnel, but shall not sell or install systems and appliances.

a. Shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 coverage per:

- i. products;
- ii. manufacturers and contractors; and
- iii. automobile liability.

b. The name of the dealer shall appear on all tank trucks which require registration with the commission and storage tank sites.

c. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

6. Class V. Carburetion Permit. Holders of these permits may install equipment, including containers, and service liquefied petroleum gas equipment used on internal combustion engines. They shall not deliver liquefied petroleum gas.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per manufacturers and contractors liability coverage.

b. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

7. Class VI. Holders of these permits may engage in the filling of approved cylinders and motor fuel tanks with liquefied petroleum gas on their premises, but shall not deliver gas.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per products liability coverage.

b. The name of the dealer shall appear on storage tank sites.

c. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

8. Class VI-X. Holders of these permits may engage in the exchange of approved liquefied petroleum gas

cylinders on their premises, but shall not fill cylinders. They shall not deliver gas.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per products liability coverage.

b. Any current Class VI permit holder may convert to a Class VI-X permit by filing formal application with the commission and submitting a \$25 filing fee. Presence of the applicant at the commission meeting will be waived. Upon receipt of the application and filing fee, permit shall be issued.

c. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

9. Class VII. Holders of these permits may transport liquefied petroleum gas by motor vehicle over the highways of the state of Louisiana but shall not sell product in the state.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per automobile liability coverage.

b. Where fuel is used direct from cargo tank, an approved valve with proper excess flow device shall be used. Connector to vehicle's engine shall be approved for such use and protected from mechanical injury.

c. No truck shall be parked on a street or highway at night in any city, town, or village, except for the purpose of serving a customer.

d. The name of the dealer shall appear on all tank trucks which require registration with the commission.

e. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

10. Reserved.

11. Class VIII. Holders of these permits may store, transport and sell liquefied petroleum gas used solely in the cutting and metal working industry, sell and install piping and containers for those gases and engage in the filling of approved ASME tanks, ICC or DOT containers used in the metal working industry.

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per products, manufacturers and contractors, and automobile liability coverage.

b. The name of the dealer shall appear on all tank trucks which require registration with the commission and storage tank sites.

c. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

12. Class IX. Holders of these permits may inspect, recertify and recondition DOT and ICC cylinders. They shall not sell or deliver liquefied petroleum gas or anhydrous ammonia.

[Text in a. – d. below is being preserved and moved.]

a. Holders of these permits shall obtain from DOT a restesters identification number, and provide proof of such to the commission.

b. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per products liability coverage.

c. Holders of these permits shall provide drawing and description of equipment to be installed to retest cylinders. Drawing and description shall be submitted to the office of the director for his approval before installation.

d. Holders of these permits shall maintain an accurate log of all cylinders that have been retested by date,

size, manufacturer name, and serial number. The commission reserves the right to inspect such logs at any time through its representative.

e. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations is a mandatory requirement.

13. Registration 1 (R-1). Holders of these registrations shall be a person, firm, or corporation who is engaged in the business of plumbing and holds a master plumber's license issued by the state of Louisiana. They may install liquefied petroleum gas or anhydrous ammonia piping and make alterations or modifications to existing piping systems. These registrations shall be issued by the office of the director upon meeting the applicable requirements of §107 and the following:

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per manufacturers and contractors liability coverage.

b. Compliance with the provisions of NFPA Pamphlet Number 54 (*National Fuel Gas Code*) and NFPA Number 58 (*Standard for the Storing and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gas*) and ANSI K 61.1-1989 is a mandatory requirement.

c. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations of the commission is a mandatory requirement.

14. Registration 2 (R-2). Holders of these registrations shall be a person, firm, or corporation engaged in the mechanical contracting business. They may install liquefied petroleum gas and/or anhydrous ammonia appliances and equipment, and make alterations or modifications to existing liquefied petroleum gas and/or anhydrous ammonia appliances and equipment. These registrations shall be issued by the office of the director upon meeting the applicable requirements of §107 and the following:

a. Holders of these permits shall furnish evidence of general liability insurance in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per products and manufacturers and contractors liability coverage.

b. Compliance with the provisions of NFPA Pamphlet Number 54 (*National Fuel Gas Code*) and NFPA Number 58 (*Standard for the Storing and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gas*) and ANSI K 61.1-1989 is a mandatory requirement.

c. Compliance with all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations of the commission is a mandatory requirement.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972, amended December 1974, amended and promulgated LR 3:315 (July 1977), amended LR 7:633 (December 1981), LR 8:53 (January 1982), amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, LR 11:557 (May 1985), LR 12:841 (December 1986), LR 15:855 (October 1989), LR 16:1063 (December 1990), LR 19:904 (July 1993), LR 20:1400 (December 1994), LR 21:701 (July 1995), LR 24:461 (March 1998), LR 25:2411 (December 1999), LR 29:2509 (November 2003), LR 33:1141 (June 2007), effective July 1, 2007, LR 38:1259 (May 2012), LR 41:395 (February 2015), LR 43:967 (May 2017), LR 46:188 (February 2020), LR 47:

## **Subchapter B. Dealers**

### **§119. Permit Fees**

A. All fees pursuant to R.S. 40:1849 shall be paid before a new permit will be issued each year, with the exception of a Class I-E permit. For a Class I-E permit, all fees shall be paid prior to a renewal permit being issued by the commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972, amended December 1974, amended by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, LR 16:1063 (December 1990), LR 38:1262 (May 2012), LR 47:

### **§131. Compliance with Rules**

A. Compliance with all other statutes, rules and regulations will be required for all permit holders.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:1846.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the Department of Public Safety, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, November 1972, amended December 1974. LR 47:

John W. Alario  
Executive Director