

EL SEGUNDO FIRE DEPARTMENT Fire Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Interpretation # 10-1 California Fire Code Sections 202 and 2702.1 Definitions and Requirements for Engine Fuel Tanks With a Capacity of 60 gallons or Less

The Fire Department has received a clarification if a 60 gallon capacity base tank for a diesel fueled generator is a container or a tank. Specifically, if the base storage vessel is a container, it must meet the requirements of California Fire Code Section 5704.3, if it is a stationary tank; it must meet the requirements of California Fire Code Section 5704.2. Section 5704.2 has more requirements than 5704.3.

Which Chapter 57 section is applicable is determined through the definitions. Below is a summary of the definitions for Container (Chapter 2) and Tank, Stationary (Chapter 2):

Section 202, Container. A vessel of 60 gallons (227 L) or less in capacity used for transporting or storing hazardous materials. Pipes, piping systems, engines and engine fuel tanks are not considered to be containers.

Section 202, Tank. A vessel containing more than 60 gallons (227 L)

Section 202, Tank, Stationary. Packaging designed primarily for stationary installations not intended for loading, unloading or attachment to a transport vehicle as part of its normal operation in the process of use. It does not include cylinders having less than a 1,000-pound (454 kg) water capacity.

It is the Fire Prevention Division's policy that a 60 gallon or less capacity vessel used as a stationary engine fuel storage tank is to be considered a stationary tank. This policy is consistent with the definition of a Container in California Fire Code Section 202, which specifically removes pipes, piping systems, engines and engine fuel tanks from the definition.

The effective date of this interpretation is October 18, 2010. Interpretation reviewed and updated, 5/13/14.

Interpretation Issued By:

James J. Carver Fire Marshal