



# Do you own a propane storage tank?

*Due to the safety risk, BC Safety Authority (BCSA) is reminding owners of propane storage tanks that an operating permit is required for each tank in BC ([directive #D-BP-2015-01](#)).*

## Which propane storage tanks require an operating permit?

Propane storage tanks in operation (e.g., pressurized above 15 pounds per square inch gauge - psig) require an operating permit. Common sizes of propane storage tanks currently available vary from 120 US water gallons (USWG) up to 1000 USWG; however, tanks may be constructed for other capacities.

Propane cylinders (e.g., used with barbecues, small heating equipment, and recreation vehicles) are subject to Transport Canada regulations and **do not** require a BCSA operating permit. For more details, see the '[Transportation of Dangerous Goods – Containers](#)' section under 'Safety' on Transport Canada's website.

## Who should take out an operating permit?

The propane tank owner should take out the operating permit.

## What are some of the responsibilities of the operating permit holder?

- Applying and paying for the permit, including annual renewals. (see *fee exemption note on page 2*)
- Complying with the terms and conditions of the operating permit.
- Ensuring the permit is in place before using, operating or performing work on the tank.
- Ensuring all regulated work is done by individuals with the appropriate certification who are employed by either a company with a valid gas contractor's licence or, where applicable, an establishment with a valid operating permit allowing regulated work.
- On completion of an inspection by a safety officer, BCSA is responsible for issuing a Certificate of Inspection (COI) to the operating permit holder, who must then correct any identified non-compliances and advise BCSA.

## Who is qualified to maintain a propane tank and service the pressure relief devices?

Individuals employed by a company with a valid gas contractor's licence and who hold a valid and appropriate Certificate of Qualification recognized by a Provincial Safety Manager in order to:

- transfer propane from one container to another (e.g., adding, removing, dispensing or defueling);
- inspect, maintain, service or remove tank components, including pressure relief devices; and
- connect or disconnect gas systems to propane containers.

Talk to your propane supplier about maintenance or find a licensed gas contractor on BCSA's website under '[Find a Contractor](#)'.

## What is the process to apply for an operating permit?

1. Complete an *Operating Permit Application for Propane Pressure Vessels* ([Form 1509](#) on our website under *BCSA Forms & Fees*) and email it to [propane@safetyauthority.ca](mailto:propane@safetyauthority.ca), or call 778-396-2033 for assistance.
2. You will receive an electronic spreadsheet from BCSA with the data fields required for all of your propane pressure vessel units. The data required will include - but is not limited to - the information on the name plate of your tank(s) as well as the location of each tank.
3. Complete the electronic spreadsheet and email it to [propane@safetyauthority.ca](mailto:propane@safetyauthority.ca).
4. You will be contacted if further clarification or information is required.
5. You will receive an invoice (annually) listing all of your units.
6. Once payment is submitted and processed, you will be issued an operating permit.



## 2016 Propane Pressure Vessel Annual Operating Permit Fees

**NOTE:** Operating permits are required for ALL propane tanks. Homeowners who own or lease their tank for residential use are exempt from the permit fee. The fee is also exempt from tanks that are owned by commercial operators but leased to a homeowner who is using the tank for residential purposes.

All tank owners (industrial, commercial and residential), regardless of the fee exemption, are required to apply for a permit and provide their tank data to BCSA.

Table 1: Tank Dimension-based Fees

Diameter	Length					
	< 5 M	5 - 10 M	10 - 15 M	15 - 20 M	20 - 25 M	> 25 M
< 1 M	\$27	\$41	\$64	\$82	\$105	\$125
1 - 2 M	\$38	\$52	\$75	\$93	\$116	\$136
2 - 3 M	\$53	\$67	\$90	\$108	\$131	\$151
3 - 4 M	\$64	\$78	\$101	\$119	\$142	\$162
4 - 5 M	\$74	\$88	\$111	\$129	\$152	\$172
> 5 M	\$89	\$103	\$126	\$144	\$167	\$187

Table 2: Tank Volumetric-based Fees (in US water gallons)

Volume	Fee
≤ 999 USWG*	\$27
1,000 to 1,999 USWG*	\$38
≥ 2,000 USWG	Dimensions required

\* For reference, if tank dimensions are unavailable for tanks less than 2,000 USWG, Table 2 assumes:

- 250 and 500 USWG tanks: diameter < 39.4" (= 1 M) and length < 197" (= 5 M)
- 1,000 USWG tanks: diameter 39.4" to 78.8" (= 1 – 2 M) and length < 197" (= 5 M)
- Dimensions must be provided for tanks < 2,000 USWG with non-standard dimensions, or tanks ≥ 2,000 USWG.

### How will safety oversight be provided?

To help clients ensure that their tanks meet safety standards, BCSA will utilize a risk-based, sample and audit approach to identify areas of greatest safety concern. Our Accident Prevention Model includes:

- Assessment via sample inspections and audits of tank maintenance records.
- Education, such as providing information and videos on propane equipment safety.
- Enforcement to ensure that propane equipment is properly installed, maintained and safe.
- Research into incidents involving propane.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.safetyauthority.ca/about](http://www.safetyauthority.ca/about).

### Why is this important?

Since 2004, BC law states that all pressure vessel owners must have a permit to use this type of equipment. In particular, when this equipment is used to store large quantities of combustible fuel, such as propane, there is an inherent safety risk involved to owners and the surrounding public and property.

An operating permit is required for propane tanks in order for BCSA to provide safety oversight. Having this data enables us to assess hazards and effectively communicate important safety information to owners so that they can protect themselves, their equipment and those around them.

### Questions about operating permits or the application process?

Please contact us at [propane@safetyauthority.ca](mailto:propane@safetyauthority.ca) or 778-396-2033.

Safe technical systems. Everywhere. [www.safetyauthority.ca](http://www.safetyauthority.ca) 1.866.566.7233

