



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLERS OF BULK LIQUEFIED CARBON DIOXIDE GAS

Riverside County Ordinance 651 requiring the disclosure of hazardous materials and the formulation of Business Emergency Plans has recently been revised (version 651.3). Among the changes to the Ordinance is the regulation of bulk liquefied carbon dioxide gas.

These revisions require businesses that handle bulk liquefied carbon dioxide used for carbonation of beverages in excess of a cumulative amount of 200 pounds to complete a Business Emergency Plan and apply for a permit from the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Management Division. Permit fees will be invoiced on an annual basis according to the handler category at which a business is rated as per the Ordinance (most food establishments are rated at the lowest category).

The reason for the new regulatory status for bulk liquefied carbon dioxide is the hazard this material can pose to employees who handle or work around the material and the need to disclose it to the local fire department responders. Bulk liquefied carbon dioxide is considered to be very cold at storage temperatures and a simple asphyxiant. The container has the potential to release a large amount if damaged or mishandled. This means that a release of the liquid/gas can pose a hazard to employees or first responders by freezing skin immediately upon contact, displacing oxygen in a room thus causing asphyxiation and the possibility of over-pressuring a confined storage space causing a failure of the structure surrounding the container. This liquid/gas, once released, expands over 400 times from the original contained volume.

The District Hazardous Materials Management Specialist will, on a biennial basis, inspect your business. This is to insure that your business is complying with the applicable laws and regulations. There are requirements with which you must comply, such as preparing a Business Emergency Plan, training of personnel, labeling of containers with a NFPA 704 sign and the words "Liquefied Carbon Dioxide". Also posting of the building at or near the rear entrance with a NFPA 704 sign will be required. The District Specialist will explain these and other requirements to you.

Most questions can be addressed to the District Specialist. Inquiries can also be made to the Area Supervisor or the Division Administrator.

Revised 8/06

Corona
2275 S Main St Suite 204
(951) 273-9143
Fax (951) 520-8319

Hemet
800 S. Sanderson
(951) 766-6524
Fax (951) 791-1778

Indio
47-950 Arabia St Suite A
(760) 863-8976
Fax (760) 863-8303

Riverside
4065 County Cir
(951) 358-5055
Fax (951) 358-5017

Department Web Site – www.rivcoeh.org