

Serving the Cities of Kent, Covington and King County Fire District 37

Flammable and Combustible Liquid Classifications and Definitions

THE FOLLOWING ARE DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS CONTAINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE AS THEY PERTAIN TO FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS:

FLAMMABLE LIQUID: A liquid having a flash point **BELOW 100°F.**

Class I-A Liquids: A flash point below 73°F. and a boiling point below 100°F.

Class I-B Liquids: A flash point below 73°F. and a boiling point at or above **100°F.**

Class I-C Liquids: A flash point at or above 73°F. and below 100°F.

COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID: A liquid having a flash point **AT OR ABOVE 100°F.**

Class II Liquids: A flash point at or above 100°F. and below 140°F.

Class III-A Liquids: A flash point at or above 140°F. and below 200°F.

Class III-B Liquids: A flash point at or above 200°F.

STORAGE: The keeping, retention or leaving of flammable or combustible liquids in closed containers, tanks or similar vessels.

USE: Flammable or combustible liquids placed in action or made available for service by opening or connecting anything to the storage container.

DISPENSING: The pouring or transferring of a flammable or combustible liquid from a container, tank or similar vessel whereby flammable vapors may be liberated to the atmosphere.

MIXING: The combining, blending or bringing together within the same container, tank or vessel flammable or combustible liquids whereby flammable vapors may be liberated to the atmosphere.



USE, OPEN: The use of a flammable or combustible liquid in a vessel or system that is continuously open to the atmosphere during normal operations which would allow vapors to be liberated. Examples include dip tanks and dispensing to or from containers.

USE, CLOSED: The use of a flammable or combustible liquid in a vessel or system that remains closed during normal operations where vapors emitted by the product are not liberated outside of the vessel or system. Examples include reaction process operations and products conveyed through a piping system into a closed vessel, system or piece of equipment.

CONTROL AREA: A building or portion of building where exempt amounts of flammable or combustible liquids may be stored, used, dispensed or handled. A building may have up to four control areas. (Two for retail sales buildings.) The boundaries of a control area shall be formed by one or more of the following:

1. An occupancy separation with a minimum one-hour fire-resistive rating, or
2. The exterior wall, roof or foundation of the building.

EXEMPT AMOUNTS: The maximum quantity of flammable or combustible liquid that may be stored or used in an area before the area must be designated as a Group H occupancy.

NOTE: "Exempt" refers to quantities which are exempt from Group H occupancy requirements. Quantities less than exempt amounts still must comply with specific code requirements.

*****Kent Fire Prevention Information Sheets should not be used as substitutes for codes and regulations. Details of every project shall be reviewed for specific compliance with codes, regulations and ordinances by Fire Prevention personnel.**