

**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**Statute, Rule or Standard Policy Interpretation: Aboveground Fuel Dispensing Storage Tank
Capacity at Railway Facilities**

Title:	Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Gasoline and Volatile Oils: Rule and Regulations Relating to General Storage
Part:	41 Ill. Adm. Code 180
Section Number:	180.20
Section Title:	Aboveground Storage - Dispensing
Policy Number:	07-TS-005

Purpose: This instruction provides for current policy and guidance to ensure uniform enforcement of Title 41 Illinois Administrative Code Part 180 *“Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Gasoline and Volatile Oils”* and specifically for the interpretation of rules to be applied to the aboveground storage of combustible liquids in aboveground storage tanks to be use for dispensing purposes at railway facilities.

Scope: Statewide

Current Code: The Part 180 rules generally limit the capacity of aboveground fuel storage tanks to be used for dispensing purpose to a maximum capacity of 2,500 gallons. The rules do recognize increases in capacity for specific sites include 1) airports and 2) mining facilities and coal-fired electric generation plants. AST capacities for these types of facilities are allowed to be increased to 10,000 gallons and 12,000 gallons respectively. The rules do not however, currently address railway facilities (or “rail yards”) where large-fuel capacity machinery is used and that is not capable of being transported over-the-road to a service station.

Policy: It is the policy of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal that until formal administrative rule changes can be accomplished, the OSFM will allow an increase in allowable aboveground dispensing storage tank capacity at railway facilities in accordance with the allowances granted to mining and/or coal-powered electrical generation facilities granted in 41 Illinois Administrative Code 180.

To enumerate the requirements:

1. Fueling from the larger-capacity aboveground tanks is exclusively limited to off-road diesel fuel for off-road equipment (that cannot be driven to a service station).
2. The aboveground tank/s must be limited to the storage of diesel fuel (the approval does not extend to “flammable” liquids including gasoline).
3. The maximum capacity per tank is 12,000 gallons (not 2,500 gallons as is applicable to other dispensing tank installations).

4. Such larger-capacity aboveground tanks shall be separated from property lines, buildings, LP storage tanks, and other aboveground flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks by a minimum distance of 50 feet (and not 30 ft. as is applicable to smaller dispensing tank installations).
5. The facility shall receive written approval from both the OSFM and the local fire authority having response jurisdiction over the facility for the installation of tanks greater than 2,500 gallons capacity.
6. It is also important to note that the installation must comply with all other requirements of 41 Ill. Adm. Code 180. Amongst other requirements, this includes a limitation on the number of aboveground fuel dispensing storage tanks per facility to two (2) tanks and a requirement for secondary containment of the tank.

Reason:

The OSFM understands the constraints and hardships imposed by the applicable rules for aboveground fuel tank storage at facilities that employ large equipment that either by virtue of its physical size or function cannot be taken over-the-road to fueling stations. It was this consideration that prompted the OSFM to make past modifications in the applicable rules for airports, mining, and coal-fired electrical generating facilities. Those modifications were made at 41 Illinois Administrative Code Part 180 “Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Gasoline and Volatile Oils” and specifically in Section 180.20(b)(11) that allows:

Aboveground tanks used exclusively to fuel off-road diesel equipment at mining facilities or coal fired electric generating facilities shall be allowed a maximum capacity of 12,000 gallons per tank. Aboveground tanks of greater than 2,500 gallons capacity shall be separated from property lines, buildings, LP storage tanks, and other aboveground flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks by a minimum distance of 50 feet. The facility shall receive written approval from the local fire authority having response jurisdiction over the facility for the installation of tanks greater than 2,500 gallons capacity.

Effective Date: April 2007