

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

Statute, Rule or Standard Policy Interpretation: **Storage of Class IIIB Combustible Liquids**

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Title:	Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Gasoline and Volatile Oils: Rule and Regulations Relating to General Storage
Part:	41 Ill. Adm. Code 160
Section Number:	Multiple Sections
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Policy Number:	07-TS-002

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**Purpose:** This instruction provides for current policy and guidance to ensure uniform enforcement of the Title 41 Illinois Administrative Code Part 160 “*Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Gasoline and Volatile Oils: Rule and Regulations Relating to General Storage*” and specifically for the interpretation of rules to be applied to the storage of Class IIIB combustible liquids.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Current Code:** The Part 160 rules recognize only minor allowances for the storage of Class IIIB combustible liquids.

**Policy:** It is the policy of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal that:

- Aboveground Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are not required to be equipped with secondary containment.
- Aboveground Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are not required to be electrically grounded.
- Aboveground Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are required to be separated from combustible material by a minimum separation distance of 5 ft.
- Aboveground Class IIIB liquid storage tanks of less than 12,000 gallons are required to be separated from buildings, property lines that are, or can be, built upon and from any public way by only 5 feet.
- Aboveground Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are required to be separated by only 3 ft. from other tanks storing Class IIIB liquids. (Tank-to-tank separation distances from Part 160 rules would continue to apply if the adjacent tank is other than a Class IIIB liquid storage tank).
- Aboveground indoor Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are not required to be physically separated from other areas of an occupancy by fire rated barriers or by fire-rated tank design (regardless of occupancy classification).
- Aboveground indoor Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are not required to have vent piping extend to outside the building enclosure.

- Aboveground indoor Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are not required to be filled or emptied from connections located outside the building.
- Aboveground indoor Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are allowed to be located in the basement of buildings.
- Aboveground indoor Class IIIB liquid storage tanks are allowed to be located in buildings of combustible construction.

Aboveground Class IIIB liquid storage tanks continue to be required to:

- Complete and submit an OSFM “bulk storage” AST application and undergo field inspection processes for new or relocated tank installations;
- Comply with UL listing requirements appropriate for the aboveground storage of combustible liquids;
- Be provided with proper regular and emergency venting applicable to the AST;
- Comply with collision protection requirements;
- Have any attached product piping tested upon installation in accordance with Part 160 rule requirements;
- Have each connection below normal liquid level through which liquid can normally flow equipped with an internal or external valve located as close as practical to the shell of the tank.

Reason:

Nationally recognized codes addressing flammable and combustible liquid storage make several allowances (less restrictive requirements) for Class IIIB combustible liquids which have high associated flash points. These policy modifications represent a relaxing of previously enforced agency policies and are based upon the absence of fire history related to the storage of Class IIIB liquids along with an examination of the nationally-recognized standard for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids – National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard #30.

Effective Date:

June 2005