

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

Statute, Rule or Standard Policy Interpretation: **Separation Distances for Aboveground Storage Tanks Supplying Emergency Generators**

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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:	160.30
Section Title:	Location of Aboveground Tanks - Property Lines and Buildings
Policy Number:	07-TS-008

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**Purpose:** This instruction provides for current policy and guidance to ensure uniform enforcement of 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 location of aboveground storage tanks used for supplying fuel to emergency generators.

**Scope:** Statewide

**Current Code:** The Part 160 rules set requirements for the separation of aboveground fuel storage tanks from both property lines and from buildings. The requirements are found in 41 Ill. Adm. Code 160.30. The rules offer no exceptions for smaller storage capacities nor do they consider the intended use of the fuel. The separation distances set in the Part 160 rules are much more stringent than those required by the commonly applied national standard – National Fire Protection Association Standard #30 *The Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*.

**Policy:** It is the policy of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal to allow the application of the tank-to-building and tank-to-property line separation distances prescribed by National Fire Protection Association Standard #30 “*Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*” rather than the Part 160 separation requirements for aboveground storage tanks used specifically for storing fuel for supplying emergency generators.

**Reason:** Nationally recognized codes addressing flammable and combustible liquid storage require much less stringent separation distances between aboveground tanks and adjacent property lines and between tanks and adjacent buildings than those imposed by 41 Ill. Adm. Code 160. This policy modification represents a relaxing of agency rules and is based upon the absence of fire history related to the storage of emergency generator fuels 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:** August 2007