



**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
LIFE SAFETY BUREAU (LSB)**

**LSB STANDARD 14, REV. 04
UNATTENDED SERVICE STATIONS**



SUPERCEDES: **LSB Standard 14, Rev. 03 Effective 12/31/2010**

Note: Vertical lines in the left-hand margin delineate changes from the previous version.

Effective Date: 5/01/2012



LSB Standards are established in accordance with provisions of the City of Houston Fire Code. They are subject to the administrative sections covering alternative materials and methods, modifications, and the Board of Appeals.

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LSB STANDARD 14, rev. 04
UNATTENDED SERVICE STATIONS

SECTION 14.1 --- GENERAL

14.1.1 Scope.

Unattended Service Stations shall be in accordance with the *Fire Code*, this standard and the State Health and Safety Code on Flammable Liquids. Such facilities shall conform to pertinent sections of NFPA Standards 30 and 30-A. Where this is a conflict with this standard and these other requirements, the most restrictive standard shall apply.

14.1.2 Purpose.

This standard shall provide guidelines for the installation of Unattended Service Stations. Requirements for such Unattended Service Stations are in addition to the *Fire Code* requirements relative to service stations and are subject to approval of the Fire Marshal's appointed committee to review such installations.

SECTION 14.2 --- DEFINITIONS

14.2.1 Unattended Service Station.

Unattended Service Stations are service stations not engaged in the retail sale of flammable liquids to the general public and are without an attendant or supervisor on location to monitor dispensing. These stations are classified as private clubs, selling only to members.

SECTION 14.3 --- REQUIREMENTS

14.3.1 Permit for Unattended Service Station Vehicle Fuel Dispensing

When unattended service stations are used for vehicle fuel dispensing, a permit for "Motor Vehicle Fuel-dispensing Stations" shall be required.

Permit Office contact information for Motor Vehicle Fuel-dispensing Station Permits is as follow:

The Houston Permitting Center
Third Floor
1002 Washington Avenue
Houston, Texas 77007
Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Central Time
Monday through Friday
Office phone (832)394-8811
To Email Customer Service Questions: hfd.permitoffice@houstontx.gov
Link to City Wide Fee Schedule: www.houstoncityfees.org

14.3.2 Fire Alarm.

A fire alarm system shall be required and shall provide the following:

- 1) Control panel
- 2) Pull stations
- 3) Audible devices
- 4) Combination fixed temperature and rate of rise detectors (spacing in accordance with listing requirements)
- 5) System must be weatherproof.
- 6) Automatic fuel shut-off when the fire alarm is activated. These devices will remain inactive until controls are manually re-set at a service location onsite and accessible only by the proprietor or the proprietors designee.
- 7) The system shall be connected to a Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listed central station.

14.3.3 Telephone.

A readily accessible telephone not requiring a coin to operate shall be provided to notify the Houston Fire Department in case of fire, fuel spills or other emergencies.

14.3.4 Emergency sign.

A sign of durable materials, with letters a minimum of 1-inch in height on a background of contrasting color so that the lettering is clearly visible, shall be posted at the telephone location with the following information:

| |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">IN CASE OF FIRE, SPILL OR RELEASE</p> <p>1. Use emergency pump shut-off!</p> <p>2. Report the accident Fire Department No. 9-1-1 Facility address _____</p> |
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14.3.5 Canopy.

A non-combustible canopy is required to cover all dispensing areas.

14.3.6 Written operation and safety instructions.

Unattended service stations shall provide written operation and safety instructions to their members and post such instructions in dispensing areas.

14.3.7 No Smoking and stop engine signs.

Signs, prohibiting smoking, dispensing into unapproved containers, and requiring vehicle engines to be stopped during fueling, shall be conspicuously posted within sight of each dispenser. Sign lettering shall be a minimum of 1-inch in height, on a background of contrasting color, so that the lettering is clearly visible.

14.3.8 Fire protection.

Two listed portable fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 20:B each shall be provided and mounted so that both fire extinguishers are readily visible and accessible and so that the path-of-travel distance to either fire extinguisher shall not be more than 35 feet. All fire extinguishers shall be inspected and tagged annually by an approved fire extinguisher service company.

REFERENCES

1. City of Houston *Fire Code*, International Fire Code, 2006 edition, as amended.
2. State of Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 9, Safety Subtitle A. Public Safety, Chapter 753, Flammable Liquids.
3. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 30, "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code".
4. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 30-A, "Automotive and Marine Service Station Code