



NO-SPILL
Research, Inc.

THE ORIGINAL NO-SPILL GASOLINE CAN



PO Box 159, Stanberry, Mo 64489 ■ Office: 660-783-2065 ■ Fax: 660-783-2060 ■ www.nospill.com

January 7, 2002

Environmental Quality Board, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: **Comments Summary - PROPOSED RULEMAKING [25 PA. CODE CH. 130]**
Portable Fuel Containers [31 Pa.B. 6185]

No-Spill Research, Inc. applauds Pennsylvania's efforts to reduce VOCs emitted from portable fuel containers. However, we have seen instances of end-users altering or defeating CARB compliant spill-proof systems due to function or performance which defeats the environmental advantages intended by the regulation. Current CARB rules assume a spout/container paradigm that rejects designs that can solve these problems while meeting the objectives and goals of the regulation.

Two PROPOSED RULEMAKING rules that unnecessarily limit spout/container designs are:

§ 130.103.(a)(2) Automatically closes and seals when removed from the target fuel tank and remains completely closed when not dispensing fuel. (the Test Method 511)

We agree with the intent of this rule but disagree with the test procedures referenced in the CARB regulation. Test Method 511 assumes an unnecessarily narrow spout design that requires the spout be pushed down onto the tank opening to open and pour. These are not usable on small equipment and hard to reach tank openings and can lead to even more spills. Alternative spout designs automatically close and remain closed when at rest or if dropped while pouring, automatically stops the flow when the level in the target tank reaches the prescribed level, and reclaims fumes displaced from the target tank. All without the need to apply all of the spout opening pressure directly down onto the tank opening. Recommend the phrase "**per manufacturer's instructions**" be inserted into the 511 testing procedure, and re-phrase the rule to "**Automatically closes and remains completely closed when not dispensing fuel**".

§ 130.103.(a)(3) Has only one opening for both filling and pouring.

This rule was understandably written under the paradigm that the typical second "opening" was used to vent the container and was frequently left open or lost allowing evaporation or spills and defeating the automatic shut-off function of the spout. However, a permanently attached spout with a separate fill opening offers several advantages. Removing and replacing a simple cap for refills is cleaner and releases less fumes than removing and replacing a gas soaked spout assembly. Note the gas odor left on your hands after removing/replacing a spout. We believe that a separate fill opening offers a better product to meet your goals and provides the cleanest, friendliest product possible. Recommend this rule be changed to "**Has only one opening for both pouring and venting.**".

Please see full comments pages for more detailed explanations and rationale.

Mark Pierce
President - No-Spill Research, Inc.