



Portable Petrol Storage Containers

(Advice to members of the public)

Portable Petrol Containers

“Portable petrol storage container” means any container designed, manufactured or sold for storing petrol which is designed to be carried by hand, excluding a demountable fuel tank or a fuel tank attached to an internal combustion engine.

Demountable Fuel Tank

“Demountable fuel tank” means the fuel tank for the internal combustion engine of a motor boat or similar vessel, motor vehicle, hovercraft or aircraft that has been designed so that it can be safely removed and re-affixed to the engine without leaking fuel.

Suitable Portable Containers

For the purposes of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 a portable container must:

- Have a nominal capacity —
 - no greater than 10 litres if made of plastic; and
 - no greater than 20 litres if made of metal;
 - have a total capacity between 10% and 15% greater than nominal capacity
- Be made of either metal or plastic that is suitable and safe for the purpose and will not significantly degrade due to exposure to petrol or naturally occurring ultra-violet radiation;
- Be designed and constructed so that—
 - it is reasonably robust and not liable to break under the normal conditions of use;
 - the escape of liquid or vapour is prevented;
 - petrol can be poured safely from it; and
 - it is not unsteady when placed on a flat surface;
- Be marked or labelled in a legible and indelible form with—
 - the words “PETROL” and “HIGHLY FLAMMABLE”;
 - an appropriate hazard warning sign;
 - the nominal capacity in litres; and
 - the manufacturer’s name including the month and year of manufacture.
- There is no specific colour requirement for portable containers, however green is often used for unleaded petrol and black for diesel.

This information is not intended to fully detail all the specific requirements for portable petrol storage containers, and therefore should you require further information or advice please contact your local trading standards office as detailed below.