

Fuel contamination from inappropriate portable containers

Generator engines require pure and clean fuel all the time. Diesel for generator sets must be free of contaminants such as water, sludge, rusts, dusts, bacteria and chemicals that come from containers not suitable for transport of diesel fuel. Metallic or non-metallic portable containers previously used for chemicals such as acid, paint, acetone, bleach, and cooking oil leaves residues that will contaminate diesel fuel. It is advisable to use appropriate portable container for diesel when refilling generator sets. Using appropriate portable container and reserving it for diesel only will prevent cross-contamination with other chemicals and provides safe fuel handling when refilling generator sets.

Relevant laws

Department Circular No. 2017-11-0011 of the Department of Energy (DOE) mandates gas stations to dispense fuel only in appropriate portable containers where fuel is intended for emergency use, personal consumption like for stalled vehicles, fuel powered tools and generator sets.

Gas stations caught dispensing of fuel to inappropriate portable containers, such as “bote-bote” will be penalized amounting to P 10,000.00 for the first offense and another P 10,000.00 for the second offense with revocation of business permit in violation of the same Department Circular.

Likewise, the Fire Code of the Philippines have relevant provisions in the use of portable containers for storage and handling fuels.



Appropriate portable container

The same Department Circular of the DOE specifies appropriate portable container that adhere to any existing international standard specifically the ASTM F976-02: Standard Specification Portable Kerosene and Diesel Containers for Consumer Use and the ASTM F852-08: Standard Specification for Portable Gasoline Containers for Consumer Use. Both standards require portable container shall be maximum capacity of 25 liters and shall have a spout through which fuel can be dispensed safely without spills. Non-metallic container shall be made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) plastic material compatible with diesel and gasoline fuel.



Portable containers are for liquid transfer only and not intended for long term fuel containment or storage due to some degree of risk. Label portable container according to their contents. Keep portable containers away from direct sunlight and other sources of heat.

