



Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 (PCR)

The basic design safety features in the Petroleum-Spirit (Plastic Containers) Regulations 1982 have been carried forward into the new Regulations and now include metal containers. There are no new or additional requirements included in the new Regulations so plastic containers that currently comply with the 1982 Regulations will comply.

Are there changes to the manufacturing requirements for petrol containers?

The requirements remain the same apart from new provisions that allow storage of petrol in larger containers. The general principles regarding the requirements for portable petrol storage containers are set out in the new Regulations and state that a portable petrol storage container must:

- have a nominal capacity
 - no greater than 10 litres if made of plastic;
 - no greater than 20 litres if made of metal;
- have a total capacity between 10% and 15% more than the 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;
 - 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;
 - the manufacturer's name and the date and month of manufacture.

Approved Code of Practice COP6 'Petroleum-Spirit (Plastic Containers Regulations 1982: Requirements for testing and marking or labelling' being revised?

This document has been withdrawn. Guidance is currently being developed by a stakeholder working group (involving designers, manufacturers, suppliers and enforcing authority representatives) regarding the design and manufacturing of suitable portable petrol storage containers.

Can we continue to manufacture/supply containers that complied with previous legislation?

No - The new Regulations state that petrol containers that complied with the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc.) Regulations 1929 or the Petroleum Spirit (Plastic Containers) Regulations 1982 can continue to be used for the storage and carriage of petrol. From 1st October 2016, they can no longer be manufactured or offered for sale or supplied.