

VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

August 2016

Subject: Safety Cans

Date: _____

Location (garage, mm, etc...):

Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: _____

Name	Employee
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Safety cans should be inspected periodically. OSHA's definition of a safety can is as follows:

1926.155(I): Safety can means an approved closed container, of not more than 5 gallons capacity, having a flash-arresting screen, spring-closing lid and spout cover and so designed that it will safely relieve internal pressure when subjected to fire exposure.

(a) Approved, for the purpose of this subpart, means equipment that has been listed or approved by a national recognized testing laboratory such as Factory Mutual Engineering Corp., or Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., or Federal agencies such as Bureau of Mines, or U.S. Coast Guard, which issue approvals for such equipment.

Safety cans are designed to safely contain flammables such as gasoline, acetone, lacquer thinner, etc. Their design also will prevent them from exploding if exposed to a flame or involved in a fire.

Inside the spout of a safety can is a fine wire screen that is the most important part of making a container a safety can. The screen is the same as that found in marine gasoline engine carburetors. The screen prevents flame from passing through into the can. Without the screen, the can has lost its ability to prevent fire from entering the can, thus contributing to an explosion or adding fuel to a fire. With the screen in place if there is a fire, the pressure that builds will burn around the spout, but will not permit an internal fire or explosion. The contents will contribute to a fire only in the vapors at the spout.

Typically flammable liquids are stored two ways:

1. Reserve storage in drums followed by transfer; or
2. Operational storage in small quantities (for use at jobsites).

Drums must be connected to a grounding system.

The gravity flow method is used when drums are stored horizontally. For gravity flow safety, liquids should be dispensed into a safety can. The receiving container [and its funnel] must be bonded to the drum to draw off any static electrical charge while dispensing from the drum.

Attempting to use the can for viscous liquids such as lube oil is contrary to the intended purpose. The heavy liquid will not pass through the screen, and consequently the screen may have to be removed. This sets up a trap for the unsuspecting worker. All safety cans should be inspected regularly and frequently to make sure the screen is in place.

Also, the carrying of gasoline in the trunk of a vehicle in a safety can is extremely dangerous. As the trunk heats up from the sun, the contents of the can will expand and pressure will raise the spring-closing cap permitting vapors to accumulate in the trunk. An explosion may occur.

VTTC
SAFETY