LP Gas and anhydrous ammonia conversion dangers

Avoiding the risk

Maintaining the integrity of your customers' gas systems is the most critical aspect of an LP Gas (liquefied petroleum gas) handler's safety program. Among the key risks is contamination with anhydrous ammonia (NH_3).

LP Gas and NH₃ possess similar vapor pressure characteristics, making interchanging equipment tempting — but it's never a good idea.

LP Gas and NH₃ don't mix

Don't allow service interchanges on any tank or storage container. Serious risks arise in not completely purging the tanks. Once present in an LP Gas system, ammonia and its components spread throughout the system, damaging all the brass and copper fittings they touch.

Compromising your customers' gas systems is only one hazard associated with interchanging tanks. Other risks include liability exposure and increased fire hazard.

Keep tanks secure and legal

LP Gas to NH_3 interchanges aren't the only issue. We have also seen alarming cases of NH_3 tanks being converted for gasoline storage and dispensing, which, in addition to being extremely dangerous, is also illegal.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard clearly states that Class 1 liquids, including gasoline, are never to be pressurized. Pumping gas into a converted NH_3 gas tank, or any unapproved container, is against the law.

Include these important warnings in your training with LP handlers:

- Serious risks are involved in interchanging tanks from any product to another
- Dispensing gasoline into a converted LP tank, or any unapproved container, is illegal

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