



Houston Fire Department Life Safety Bureau (LSB)



LSB Standard No. 14, Rev. 06

Unattended Service Stations

Supersedes: LSB Standard No. 14, Rev. 05, 11/02/2021

Effective Date: 01/01/2024



LSB Standards are established in accordance with provisions of the City of Houston *Fire Code*. They are subject to the administrative sections covering alternative materials and methods, modifications, and the Board of Appeals.

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Unattended Service Stations

Section 14.1 – General

14.1.1 Scope.

This standard applies to Unattended Service Stations, which shall also be in accordance with the *Fire Code* and the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 753 on Flammable Liquids. Such facilities shall conform to pertinent sections of NFPA Standards 30 and 30-A. Where there is a conflict among this standard and these other requirements, the most restrictive standard shall prevail.

14.1.2 Purpose.

This standard shall provide guidelines for the installation of Unattended Service Stations. Requirements for such Unattended Service Stations are in addition to the *Fire Code* requirements relative to service stations and are subject to approval of the Fire Code Official's appointed committee to review such installations.

Section 14.2 – Definitions

14.2.1 Unattended Service Station.

Unattended Service Station is a service station not engaged in the retail sale of flammable liquids to the general public and is without an attendant or supervisor on location to monitor dispensing. These stations are classified as private clubs, selling only to members.

Section 14.3 – Requirements

14.3.1 Permit for Unattended Service Station Vehicle Fuel Dispensing.

When Unattended Service Stations are used for vehicle fuel dispensing, a permit for "Motor Vehicle Fuel-Dispensing Stations" shall be required.

Permit Office contact information is as follows:

The Houston Permitting Center

1002 Washington Avenue

Houston, Texas 77002

Hours of operation: 8:00am to 3:30pm (CST)

Monday through Friday

Office phone: (832) 394-8811

To E-mail Customer Service Questions: hfd.permitoffice@houstontx.gov

Link to City Wide Fee Schedule: www.houstoncityfees.org

14.3.2 Fire Alarm.

An Unattended Service Station shall be equipped with a fire alarm system that shall include all of the following:

1. Control panel.

2. Pull stations.
3. Audible alarm devices.
4. Combination fixed temperature and rate of rise detectors (spaced in accordance with listing requirements).
5. Automatic fuel shut-off when the fire alarm is activated. Fuel dispensing system shall remain shut off until controls are manually re-set at a service location on-site and accessible only by the proprietor or the proprietor's designee.

The alarm system shall be weatherproof and shall be connected to an Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) listed central station.

14.3.3 Telephone.

A readily accessible telephone not requiring a coin to operate shall be provided to notify the Houston Fire Department in case of fire, fuel spills, or other emergencies.

14.3.4 Emergency Sign.

A sign constructed of durable materials, with letters a minimum of 1-inch in height on a background of contrasting color so that the lettering is clearly visible, shall be posted at the telephone location with the following information:

<p style="text-align: center;">IN CASE OF FIRE, SPILL OR RELEASE</p> <p>1. Use emergency pump shut-off!</p> <p>2. Report the accident</p> <p>Fire Department No. 9-1-1</p> <p>Facility address _____</p>
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14.3.5 Canopy.

A noncombustible canopy is required to cover all dispensing areas.

14.3.6 Written Operation and Safety Instructions.

Unattended Service Stations shall provide written operation and safety instructions to their members and post such instructions in dispensing areas.

14.3.7 No Smoking and Stop Engine Signs.

Signs prohibiting smoking, dispensing into unapproved containers and requiring vehicle engines to be stopped during fueling shall be conspicuously posted within sight of each dispenser. Sign lettering shall be a minimum of 1-inch in height, on a background of contrasting color, so that the lettering is clearly visible.

14.3.8 Fire Protection.

Two listed portable fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 20-B:C each shall be mounted in locations approved by the Fire Code Official so that both fire extinguishers are readily visible and accessible, and so that the path-of-travel distance to either fire extinguisher shall not be more than 35 feet. All fire extinguishers shall be service tagged as provided in Life Safety Bureau (LSB) Standard No. 01, "Installation and Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers."

References

1. City of Houston *Fire Code*
2. State of Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 9, Subtitle A. Public Safety, Chapter 753, Flammable Liquids
3. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards 30 and 30A

All reference materials used under this Life Safety Bureau standard shall be in accordance with the most current adopted City of Houston *Construction Code*.