



Code Outreach Program – Gas Station Hold-Open Devices and Fire Suppression Systems

This edition of the Code Outreach Program discusses the provisions for hold-open devices and fire suppression systems for gas stations constructed or modified in accordance with the [2015 International Fire Code](#) (2015 IFC).

Hold-open latches for gas pump nozzles ARE permitted by the 2015 IFC in new gas stations.

According to Section 2306.7.6 of the 2015 IFC, “A listed automatic-closing-type hose nozzle valve ***with or without a latch-open*** device shall be provided on ***island-type*** dispensers used for dispensing Class I, II or III liquids.” The provisions of Chapter 23 apply to island-type fuel dispensing facilities “that are accessible to the public and private operations.”

“Automatic-closing-type hose nozzle” valves ***without a latch-open*** device are required in “***overhead-type*** dispensing units,” except that, a valve ***with latch-open*** device is permitted, where designed to “close automatically in the event the valve is released from a fill opening or upon impact with a driveway.”

Most existing gas stations do not have latch-open devices. This may stem from the requirements of earlier versions of the Fire Code. For instance, Section 2206.7.6 of the 2010 Fire Code of New York State stated: “automatic-closing-type hose nozzle valve without a latch-open device.”

A hose nozzle valve without a latch-open device in an existing station could be replaced with a latch-open device provided that all other applicable provisions of the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) are met.

An automatic fire suppression system is NOT required in new gas station canopies.

Automatic fire suppression systems in gas station canopies were required by earlier versions of the Uniform Code, but are not required by the currently adopted 2015 IFC for newly constructed canopies. The 2015 IFC contains many additional safeguards for fuel dispensing systems, some of which involve technologies and products that did not exist when the Uniform Code was first adopted. Some of these safeguards include, but are not limited to, the following: shut-off valves, impact valves, breakaway shut-off devices, and electrical shutdown devices.

After careful consideration of the above and following the recommendations of the NYS Fire Code Technical Subcommittee, the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council voted to remove the requirement that all new gas stations be equipped with an automatic fire suppression system, particularly considering the additional safety requirements for motor fuel dispensing systems set forth in the 2015 IFC. The Technical Subcommittee unanimously agreed however that currently installed systems should be required to be maintained and can only be removed if the entire fuel-dispensing system meets the requirements of the current fire code (2015 IFC) for new construction. Therefore, fire suppression systems on the canopy of an existing station can be removed provided that all other applicable provisions of the current Uniform Code are met (See Section 101.2.6.4.1 of the [2017 Uniform Code Supplement](#)).

Training Reminder

As a reminder to certified code enforcement officials and building safety inspectors, don’t forget to complete your annual in-service training requirements as mandated by [19 NYCRR 1208-3.3](#). Click [here](#) to access our training website. Below is a list of upcoming conferences provided for informational purposes only. Please contact the respective organization for details and to register.

<u>Estimated Dates</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Estimated Hours</u>
October 16-19, 2018	OFPC Fire Marshals Seminar	24 hours
October 15-17, 2018	NYSBOC Capital District Chapter	19 hours
November 13-15, 2018	NYSBOC Tri-County Chapter	21 hours

Please look for our next edition of the Code Outreach Program at the beginning of next month.

DBSC - A Division of Department of State
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If you have questions pertaining to the Code Outreach Program, email us at COP.codes@dos.ny.gov

If you have questions pertaining to the Uniform Code or Energy Code, email our technical support group at: codes@dos.ny.gov.

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