CHAPTER 35
FLAMMABLE GASES

SECTION 3501
GENERAL

3501.1 Scope. The storage and use of flammable gases shall be in accordance with this chapter. Compressed gases shall also comply with Chapter 30 and gaseous hydrogen systems shall also comply with NFPA 55.

Exceptions:

1. Gases used as refrigerants in refrigeration systems (see Section 606).
2. Liquefied petroleum gases and natural gases regulated by Chapter 38.
3. Fuel-gas systems and appliances regulated under the *International Fuel Gas Code.*
4. Hydrogen motor fuel-dispensing stations and repair garages designed and constructed in accordance with Chapter 22.
5. Pyrophoric gases in accordance with Chapter 41.

3501.2 Permits. Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105.6.

3501.3 Construction documents. Prior to the installation or modification of piping, systems or tanks containing flammable gases or the installation or modification of storage rooms for flammable gases, construction documents shall be submitted to the Fire Code Official for approval. The construction documents shall be sealed and signed by a qualified Arizona Registered Professional Engineer.

SECTION 3502
DEFINITIONS

3502.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

FLAMMABLE GAS. A material which is a gas at 68°F (20°C) or less at 14.7 pounds per square inch atmosphere (psia) (101 kPa) of pressure [a material that has a boiling point of 68°F (20°C) or less at 14.7 psia (101 kPa)] which:

1. Is ignitable at 14.7 psia (101 kPa) when in a mixture of 13 percent or less by volume with air; or
2. Has a flammable range at 14.7 psia (101 kPa) with air of at least 12 percent, regardless of the lower limit.

The limits specified shall be determined at 14.7 psi (101 kPa) of pressure and a temperature of 68°F (20°C) in accordance with ASTM E 681.

FLAMMABLE LIQUEFIED GAS. A liquefied compressed gas which, under a charged pressure, is partially liquid at a temperature of 68°F (20°C) and which is flammable.

METAL HYDRIDE STORAGE SYSTEM. A system for the storage of hydrogen gas absorbed in solid material.

SECTION 3503
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3503.1 Quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area. The storage and use of flammable gases in amounts not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area indicated in Section 2703.1 shall be in accordance with Sections 2701, 2703, 3501 and 3503.

3503.1.1 Special limitations for indoor storage and use. Flammable gases shall not be stored or used in Group A, B, E, I or R occupancies.

Exceptions:

1. Cylinders not exceeding a capacity of 250 cubic feet (7.08 m^3) each at normal temperature and pressure (NTP) used for maintenance purposes, patient care or operation of equipment.
2. Food service operations in accordance with Section 3803.2.1.7.

3503.1.1.1 Medical gases. Medical gas system supply cylinders shall be located in medical gas storage rooms or gas cabinets as set forth in Section 3006.

3503.1.1.2 Aggregate quantity. The aggregate quantities of flammable gases used for maintenance purposes and operation of equipment shall not exceed the maximum allowable quantity per control area indicated in Table 2703.1.1(1).

3503.1.2 Storage containers. Cylinders and pressure vessels for flammable gases shall be designed, constructed, installed, tested and maintained in accordance with Chapter 30.

3503.1.3 Emergency shutoff. Compressed gas systems conveying flammable gases shall be provided with approved manual or automatic emergency shutoff valves that can be activated at each point of use and at each source.

3503.1.3.1 Shutoff at source. A manual or automatic fail-safe emergency shutoff valve shall be installed on supply piping at the cylinder or bulk source. Manual or automatic cylinder valves are allowed to be used as the required emergency shutoff valve when the source of supply is limited to unmanifolded cylinder sources.

3503.1.3.2 Shutoff at point of use. A manual or automatic emergency shutoff valve shall be installed on the supply piping at the point of use or at a point where the equipment using the gas is connected to the supply system.

3503.1.4 Ignition source control. Ignition sources in areas containing flammable gases in storage or in use shall be controlled in accordance with Section 2703.7.

Exception: Fuel gas systems connected to building service utilities in accordance with the *International Fuel Gas Code.*

3503.1.4.1 Static-producing equipment. Static-producing equipment located in flammable gas storage areas shall be grounded.

3503.1.4.2 Signs. "No Smoking" signs shall be posted at entrances to rooms and in areas containing flammable gases in accordance with Section 2703.7.1

3503.1.5 Electrical. Electrical wiring and equipment shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the *National Electrical Code.*

3503.1.5.1 Bonding of electrically conductive materials and equipment. Exposed noncurrent-carrying metal parts, including metal gas piping systems, that are part of flammable gas supply systems located in a hazardous (electrically classified) location shall be bonded to a grounded conductor in accordance with the provisions of the *National Electrical Code.*

3503.1.5.2 Static-producing equipment. Static-producing equipment located in flammable gas storage or use areas shall be grounded.

3503.1.6 Liquefied flammable gases and flammable gases in solution. Containers of liquefied flammable gases and flammable gases in solution shall be positioned in the upright position or positioned so that the pressure relief valve is in direct contact with the vapor space of the container.

Exceptions:

1. Containers of flammable gases in solution with a capacity of 1.3 gallons (5 L) or less.
2. Containers of flammable liquefied gases, with a capacity not exceeding 1.3 gallons (5 L), designed to preclude the discharge of liquid from safety relief devices.

3503.1.7 Hydrogen gas absorbed in solids. The hazard classification of the metal hydride storage system, as required by Section 2701.2.2, shall be based on the hydrogen stored without regard to the metal hydride content.

3503.1.7.1 Listed system. Metal hydride storage ystems shall be listed for the application and designed in a manner that prevents the removal of the metal hydride.

3503.2 Quantities exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area. The storage and use of flammable gases in amounts exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area indicated in Section 2703.1 shall be in accordance with Chapter 27 and this chapter.

SECTION 3504
STORAGE

3504.1 Indoor storage. Indoor storage of flammable gases in amounts exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area indicated in Table 2703.1.1(1), shall be in accordance with Sections 2701, 2703 and 2704, and this chapter.

3504.1.1 Explosion control. Buildings or portions thereof containing flammable gases shall be provided with explosion control in accordance with Section 911.

3504.2 Outdoor storage. Outdoor storage of flammable gases in amounts exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area indicated in Table 2703.1.1(3) shall be in accordance with Sections 2701, 2703 and 2704, and this chapter.

3504.2.1 Distance limitation to exposures. Outdoor storage or use of flammable compressed gases shall be located from a lot line, public street, public alley, public way, or building not associated with the manufacture or distribution of such gases in accordance with Table 3504.2.1.

TABLE 3504.2.1
FLAMMABLE GASES—DISTANCE FROM STORAGE TO EXPOSURES

MAXIMUM AMOUNT PER STORAGE AREA (cubic feet)	MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN STORAGE AREAS (feet)	MINIMUM DISTANCE TO LOT LINES OF PROPERTY THAT CAN BE BUILT UPON (feet)[a]	MINIMUM DISTANCE TO PUBLIC STREETS, PUBLIC ALLEYS OR PUBLIC WAYS (feet)[a]	MINIMUM DISTANCE TO BUILDINGS ON THE SAME PROPERTY		
				Nonrated construction or openings within 25 feet	2-hour construction and no openings within 25 feet	4-hour construction and no openings within 25 feet
0 - 4,225	5	5	5	5	0	0
4,226 - 21,125	10	10	10	10	5	0
21,126 - 50,700	10	15	15	20	5	0
50,701 - 84,500	10	20	20	20	5	0
84,501 or greater	20	25	25	20	5	0

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 cubic foot = 0.02832 m^3.

a. The minimum required distances shall not apply when fire barriers without openings or penetrations having a minimum fire-resistance rating of 2 hours interrupt the line of sight between the storage and the exposure. The configuration of the fire barrier shall be designed to allow natural ventilation to prevent the accumulation of hazardous gas concentrations.

SECTION 3505
USE

3505.1 General. The use of flammable gases in amounts exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area indicated in Table 2703.1.1(1) or 2703.1.1(3) shall be in accordance with Sections 2701, 2703 and 2705, and this chapter.