

Petroleum

Petrol is a dangerous substance, it is a highly flammable liquid which gives off flammable vapour even at very low temperatures. When this vapour is mixed with air in proportions between 1% and 8%, a risk of fire or explosion exists. Petrol vapour is heavier than air and does not disperse easily in still conditions. It tends to sink to the lowest possible level of its surroundings and may accumulate in tanks, cavities, drains, pits or other depressions.

The [Petroleum \(Consolidation\) Regulations 2014](#) regulate the storage and dispensing of petroleum, and a Petroleum Storage Certificate (PSC) is required if you store petrol in a tank or bowser for delivery into the fuel tank of a vehicle or other internal combustion engine.

The safe storage and use of petrol in workplaces is also covered by the [Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 \(DSEAR\)](#), which requires employers to minimize and control the potential safety risks from fire and explosions, wherever petrol is stored and / or dispensed.

When you apply for a Petroleum Storage Certificate you will receive an acknowledgement. An officer from the Trading Standards Service will then contact you further to discuss your application, and also the proposed storage and dispensing arrangements.

Who needs a licence / certificate?

Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards are the **Petroleum Enforcing Authority (PEA)** for Nottinghamshire, and is responsible for ensuring that those who keep and dispense petrol do not cause unnecessary risk to the public or environment.

The Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 came into force on the 1st October 2014 and replaces the old petrol licencing regime with a new **Petroleum Storage Certificate (PSC)**. Once a petroleum licence expires it will be deemed to be a PSC under the new regulations.

A licence /certificate will let you keep an approved quantity of petroleum. Petroleum also includes any product of crude petroleum which has a flashpoint below 21°C including petrol, benzene, pentane and any mixture which contains these products.

If you store more than 275 litres of petroleum spirit and you are either of the following, you will need a licence /certificate:

- **Retail Petrol Filling Stations**
- **Non Retail Petrol Filling Stations** (including commercial sites, golf courses, and farms if they have storage tanks for petrol and tanks where the petrol is dispensed, either mechanically or electrically, into the fuel tank for an internal combustion engine or any approved container including demountable fuel tank. Please note that this is a much wider definition than just a motor vehicle).

Non-workplace, or domestic, storage of petrol may also need a licence. (Please see Domestic / Non-workplace storage below).

Please note the old licencing regime has now changed and most sites will become 'Certificated', but in certain circumstances a 'Licence' may be granted for up to 3 years at Non-

Workplace premises. If you store between 30 and 275 litres there is a requirement to notify the Local Authority in writing. For more information on this please see Domestic and Non-Workplace Storage (below) or contact us.

Domestic and Non-Workplace Storage

The Regulations have provision for licensing domestic and non-workplace petrol storage where it is kept for private use only.

- A person may keep up to 30 litres of petrol in suitable portable containers or in a single demountable fuel tank in a suitable storage place, see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1637/schedule/2/made> for further information.
- A person keeping over 30 litres and less than 275 litres must **notify** the authority in writing with the name of the occupier, address of the premises and confirmation that the petrol is stored in accordance with regulations.
- A person keeping in excess of 275 litres will require a licence. Licences may be issued for up to three years and subsequently renewed. They are issued to the licensee personally and are not transferable.

It is important to consider the safety requirements of storing petrol:

- Petrol is highly flammable, explosive and toxic and there are laws that you need to follow if you are storing it.
- Apart from what is in your vehicle fuel tank, you can only transport petrol in securely closed containers designed for the purpose and marked 'Petroleum' and 'Highly Flammable'. Make sure they are secured in the back of your vehicle when being transported.
- Filling your tank from a container should only be carried out in the open air.
- Store any containers in a garage or shed away from any other buildings. Do not keep it in the house. Make sure the area is well ventilated and away from naked flames or live electrical equipment.
- Check containers regularly for leaks. If you smell petrol fumes, ventilate the area and make sure nobody smokes or turns electrical switches on or off. The slightest spark could cause an explosion.

If you are unsure of whether or not you need a licence, please contact us for advice.

Transferring from a current petrol licence to a petroleum storage certificate (PSC)

If you already have a petroleum licence, you will automatically be sent a petroleum storage certificate renewal form at the appropriate time. We will be in contact if at all necessary during the transfer from licence to certificate.

Further information

Trading Standards

County House

100 Chesterfield Road South

Mansfield

Nottinghamshire

NG19 7AQ

Tel: 0115 804 1147

Email: tslicensing.cc@nottscc.gov.uk / trading.standards@nottscc.gov.uk

Please note - the information above is a brief summary of the law regarding to the storage of petroleum spirit. It is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification please contact the Trading Standards Service.