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Mn State Fire Marshal Update
October 23, 2006

E-85 Fuel Dispensers lack UL listing

We have become aware of the lack of an approved national standard for the dispensers and connected appurtenances involved in the dispensing of fuel which contains more than 15% alcohol (E-85). The Minnesota State Fire Code currently requires all dispensing equipment to be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory; however, since there is no standard, no listing can currently be placed on these systems.

We have discussed this issue with representatives from UL. They are actively reviewing current E-85 research and meeting with industry and government experts to gather the information required to draft the appropriate testing and listing requirements. UL anticipates that testing of E-85 dispenser components will commence immediately following publication of UL's E-85 listing requirements. This process could take up to 2 years to complete.

Our research has not indicated any failures connected to E-85 fuel dispensing systems in Minnesota or anywhere across the country.

Because of these factors, it is our recommendation that local fire officials continue to monitor this situation while allowing the current E-85 fuel dispensing systems to operate, and new dispensers to be installed. If system failures occur in the future, this issue should be revisited. As soon as a listing is available for dispensing equipment for this type of fuel, the requirement should be enforced.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact us.

Jerry Rosendahl
Mn State Fire Marshal