



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9516



Date April 21, 2026

Edition 2021

Section 6.4.2.3

Question:

Per FL Building Code Fuel Gas 401.2 which references NFPA 58 Section 6.4.2.3 (identical to Florida LP Gas Code Section 6.4.2.3), is it allowed for the 10 foot separation for an underground propane tank and accessory building be precluded by either Table 6.4.1.1 (unimportant building) or by Section 6.5.2.3 to effectively require NO separation distance as long as the accessory building is not over the tank?

Answer

Table 6.4.1.1 of NFPA 58 provides separation distances for both aboveground and underground LP containers. It covers distances between containers, important buildings, and property lines. "Important building" is defined as a building that is considered "not expendable in an exposure fire." This is determined by such criteria as replacement value, human occupancy, value of the contents, effect on firefighting activities, and the effect of a building fire on the tank. If any of these conditions apply, the building is deemed "important" and would trigger the separation distances of NFPA 58 and this table.

The term "important building" appears throughout Section 6.4 (Container Separation Distances.) For example, Section 6.4.1.1. (Aboveground Containers), Table 6.4.1.1 (Separation Distances), and Section 6.4.2.1 (Underground Containers), all refer to "important buildings." And although Section 6.4.2.3 does use the term "building", this instance can be inferred to mean "important building" in the overall context of the code. NFPA 58 container separation distances are not intended to apply to expendable ancillary buildings or structures that do not qualify as an "important building."

Commentary:

None.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.