



### Overview

Safety cans are a necessary part of compliance for safety in the workplace. A Safety Can is a useful, hardworking tool that adds convenience while facilitating safe transfer of flammable liquids, ensuring the safety of personnel and protection of the facilities where they are used.

Safety cans serve several critical functions:

- Safely contain hazardous liquids and control vapors to reduce the risk of fire, protecting both personnel and facilities
- Offer compliance with federal OSHA regulations and state and local fire codes
- Improve efficiency with ease-of-use features to enhance pouring and filling operations

Nearly every business has occasion to use flammable or combustible liquids. Gasoline, chemicals, solvents and a variety of other hazardous liquids are found in varying amounts and locations. Although these liquids are relatively commonplace, it is important to understand the dangers they present and the special storage and handling procedures required to ensure safe usage. Reviewing the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) helps determine specific liquid characteristics and recommended safety practices.

Accidents and fire risks can be minimized by using proper safety equipment. NFPA is specific on what is required of a safety can in order for it to perform as expected under fire conditions.

The basic purpose of a safety can is the control of flammable vapors, while providing a convenient means of carrying, dispensing and storing up to five gallons of flammable liquid.

### Types of Safety Cans



5-Gallon Type I Safety Can



Type II Safety Cans  
5-Gallon (left); 2-Gallon (right)

### OSHA 29 CFR 1910.106 (a)(29) states:

Safety can shall mean an approved container, of not more than 5 gallons capacity, having a spring-closing lid and spout cover and so designed that it will safely relieve internal pressure when subjected to fire exposure.

Safety cans have several important features:

1. Removable spouts (funnel) – Type I cans only
2. Spring-closing lid
3. Fixed handle
4. Flame arrestor
5. Fixed flexible spouts – Type II cans only

