

Extract from the Code of Municipal Police Regulations – Gas regulations

Section 3 – Festivities, public entertainment, events and evening markets

[Section 4-Fair activities and itinerant fair food stall activities]

[Section 5. Itinerant activities in public markets and in the public domain]

Section 6 – Conditions for protection against the risk of fire and panic applicable to sections 3, 4 and 5 of Chapter 3

Article 133.- The installations and activities shall not interfere with the seamless and safe evacuation of the temporary installation or of the neighbouring buildings.

Article 134.- A free passage of a minimum width of 1 metre shall always remain available between the adjacent buildings and the temporary installations.

Article 135.- If rows are formed by several temporary installations, a free passage of a minimum width of 1 metre shall be guaranteed at least every thirty metres.

Article 136.- The installation and activities shall not interfere with the operations of the emergency services.

Article 137 §1.- A free passage, of 4 metres wide and 4 metres high, must be guaranteed at all times so vehicles of the emergency services can reach the adjacent buildings.

§2 If the road is less than 4 metres wide, its full width must be retained as a free passage. This free passage may not be more than ten metres from the façades of the adjacent buildings.

Article 138.- No temporary installation may be situated further than 60 metres from a site that can be reached by the vehicles of the emergency services.

Article 139.- The vehicles of the emergency services must be able to easily reach temporary installations, used for the preparation of hot dishes. This includes hamburger and hot dog stalls, roast chicken stalls, kebab stalls, chip shops, barbecue stalls, ...

Article 140.- The underground and aboveground water outlets must always remain free and remain accessible for the emergency services. It is forbidden to install anything at a distance of less than 1 metre from the water outlets which cannot be removed immediately, easily and completely.

[Article 141 [§1].- All temporary installations must have at least one fire extinguisher (with a capacity of at least one extinguishing unit) [adapted to the nature and the scope of the risk] which can rapidly put out a fire.

The fire department may impose the presence of additional or special fire extinguishing agents depending on the fire risk.

[§2.-] The extinguishing agents must be ready for use. They must be installed [in a visible place and be easily accessible, if possible hung up] and the right pictograms must be used to direct users to these extinguishing agents.

[§3.-] Every deep-fryer and every baking and frying device must be fitted with a metal lid or a sufficiently large fire blanket.

[§4.-] Every organiser or employee must know how to use these extinguishing agents and must be able to intervene in case of the slightest risk.

[§5.-] The organiser must be able to submit proof that the extinguishing agents were checked. The inspection must have taken place during the past twelve months.]

§1 renumbered and amended; §2 old Article 142 inserted and amended; §3 old Article 143 inserted; §4 old Article 144 inserted; § 5 old Article 145 inserted under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

[Article 142.- Measures must be taken to prevent fire hazards caused by smoking. Ashtrays must be available in sufficient numbers and in useful places; they must be emptied in a metal recipient, with a flame-retardant lid or a metal lid that closes well.]

Inserted under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 29 June 2009, entry into force: 5 July 2009

Article 142 bis: All four-wheeled vehicles with an engine and four-wheeled mopeds, or so-called “quads”, are prohibited on the public roads of the City of Antwerp, unless permission has been obtained from the Mayor. The ban is limited to the built-up area of the city. Quads are not allowed on all dirt roads outside the built-up area. So-called “mini cars” (four-wheel moped with a passenger compartment and a closed body) do not fall under this ban. Public road shall be understood as all roads, squares and parks that are open to the public. Quads that are found driving on public roads can be officially and immediately impounded by the police. Any quads can be impounded for maximum fourteen days after which the owner can collect his vehicle after paying the cost for impounding the vehicle. If the owner does not collect the quad, it shall be considered as an abandoned vehicle.

[Article 143.- Only electricity is allowed for lighting and light decoration. It must be installed in such a way to avoid fire hazards.]

Inserted under art. 1 municipal council decision dd. 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

[Article 144.- The operator shall establish the maximum number of persons that can be present in the installation, on his own responsibility, while taking into account the limits specified below.

The maximum occupancy of a temporary installation is calculated based on 1 person per 0.60 m² gross surface area for publicly accessible spaces and 1 person per 3.00 m² gross surface area for spaces that are not publicly accessible. The number of seats or available standing room will indicate the maximum occupancy in spaces with fixed seats or in a stand.

The minimum number of exits of a temporary installation shall be in relation to its maximum occupancy, based on the following rule:

- up to 50 persons: 1 exit;
- 51 to 250 persons: 2 exits;
- 251 to 500 persons: 3 exits;
- more than 500 persons: 1 additional exit per tranche begun of 500 persons.

The exits must be as far away as possible from each other.

The corridors, stairwells and exits have a useful width of 1.25 cm per person using it, with a minimum of 80 cm. The exits of one and the same space may not differ by more than 60 cm in terms of their useful width.

The free height must be at least 200 cm. The length of dead-end corridors may not be more than 15 metres.

The exits and the roads leading to them must always be kept completely free of obstacles. The cash registers and ticket checks must be situated in such a way that they do not reduce the useful width of corridors, stairwells and exits.

Only stairs of the straight type are allowed. The stairs shall have been fitted on both sides with sturdy rails. One rail is sufficient for stairs with a useful width of up to 80 cm. The tread of each step is the same size and at least 20 cm. The riser of each step is the same size and at least 18 cm. All stairs must be non-slip.

Inserted under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

[Article 145.- Temporary installations that have been fitted with artificial lighting shall be equipped with safety lighting, which will immediately and automatically switch on in case of power failure. Luminaires must at least be fitted above each exit. The safety lighting must be expanded in such a way that its placement and illumination intensity is sufficient to guarantee an easy evacuation. The safety lighting must be able to operate for at least one hour without interruption.]

Inserted under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

Article 146.- [The use of heating appliances for baking, frying or cooking purposes is only permitted for installations that have been specially equipped for this purpose and have adequate ventilation among others. The evacuation ducts for the flue gases and vapours must give out into outside air in these installations or stands and must extend at least one metre above the roof of the installation. They shall be resistant to the heat that develops in the installation and be sufficiently insulated from the walls, ceiling and roof to prevent fire. The inside of the evacuation ducts must be regularly cleaned.] Only electricity or gas is allowed to power the heating systems.

Amended by Art. 1 municipal council decision of 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

Article 147.- [Every cooker or heater must be installed in such a way that it cannot be pushed over. It must be installed at a distance of at least 1 metre from all flammable materials or must be separated from them in such a way to prevent a fire hazard. [A free space must be maintained above the appliance.] [All precautions must be taken to prevent spillage of oils or liquefied fats.]

[Any gas appliance must be installed at a sufficient distance from flammable materials such as decorations, canopies, tent walls and other similar objects.]

Inserted under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

Repealed and replaced with old Article 148 under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009

Article 148.- [A deep-fryer must be fitted with a shut-off relay.]

Replaced by old Article 149 under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009

Article 149.- [The organiser of the market shall provide legally approved distribution boards for connection.]

Replaced with old Article 150 under Art. 1 municipal council decision of 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009

Article 150.- [Temporary installations equipped with an electrical installation must be able to present a positive inspection report of their electrical installation. This report must have been drawn up by a recognised technical inspection service. This report may not be older than 5 years.]

Replaced with old Article 151 under Art. 1 municipal council decision dd. 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009

Article 151.- [It is prohibited to use flammable liquids for barbecues.]

Replaced with old Article 156 under art. 1 municipal council decision dd. 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009

[Article 152.- [The operator shall provide access at all times to the mayor and competent officials. At their request, he must provide proof of compliance with this section's regulations.

The mayor can always grant a derogation from the regulations of this section. The request for obtaining a derogation must be submitted along with a detailed report, stating the reasons why a derogation is deemed necessary. When granting a derogation, the operator must execute the additional precautionary measures which may be imposed by the mayor on the advice of the fire department.

The mayor can always impose additional measures and if necessary order the removal of the temporary installation to safeguard public security.]]

-Inserted under art. 1 municipal council decision of 22 October 2007, entry into force: 11 November 2007

-Replaced with old Article 156bis under art. 1 municipal council decision dd. 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009

[Section 6bis – Regulations for the use of gas cylinders for liquefied petroleum gases in public areas.

Article 153. - Terminology

General gas valve

Tap with which a combination of gas cylinders can be closed in one go.

Combination

All the interconnected gas cylinders.

Protective cover

Cover to protect the valve, which must be used when transporting gas cylinders.

Butane gas

Gas used as fuel. The boiling point at atmospheric pressure is at -0.5°C .

Butane will therefore not evaporate spontaneously at an ambient temperature of less than 0°C .

Daily supply

The supply needed to ensure a stand/installation is operational for one day.

Two-stage regulation

Reducing the delivery pressure of the gas that flows out of the gas cylinder or combination of gas cylinders to the prescribed operating pressure of the connected appliance. Two-stage regulation is obtained with the sequential use of

- a single-stage gas pressure regulator: directly connected to
 - the exit of the gas valve,
 - the exit of the switch of the combination of gas cylinders,
 - or to the exit of the gooseneck of the combination of gas cylinders,
- a two-stage gas pressure regulator: which reduces the reduced pressure of the single-stage gas pressure regulator to the prescribed operating pressure of the connected appliance.

Single-stage gas pressure regulator

Being able to reduce the pressure of the gas cylinder or combination of gas cylinders to the prescribed operating pressure of the connected appliance (usually indicated on plate/label) in one go.

Single-stage gas pressure reduction is obtained by using:

- a pressure regulator: directly connected to the exit of the valve

or:

- a one-stage pressure regulator: directly connected to the exit of the gas cylinder valve or to the exit of the switch on the combination of gas cylinders.

When connecting the cylinder gas pressure regulator or single-stage gas pressure regulator, the user must verify that it indicates the same gas pressure as the appliance to be connected.

Cylinder valve

Standard valve on each individual gas cylinder.

Gas cylinder

A gas bottle is a container in which a flammable or combustible gas is stored. This gas can be liquefied due to pressure and temperature.

Hose clamp

Clamp ring to ensure the gas hose is securely attached to the tailpiece.

High pressure gas

Gas of which the pressure is the same inside the gas cylinder.

Norm NBN D51-006

Belgian norm for the following: “Internal piping for commercial butane or propane in gas phase at a working pressure of maximum 5 bar and installation of the appliances – general provisions”.

Switch

Automatic or non-automatic device for coupling several gas cylinders, and switching from one to another gas cylinder or a combination of gas cylinders. Moreover, a single-stage gas pressure regulator has been integrated in the automatic switch.

Low pressure gas

Gas with a maximum pressure of 5 bar after gas pressure reduction.

The gas pressure in a gas cylinder is also determined by the temperature. The pressure therefore is not always the same. To ensure that the low pressure gas has the desired approximate constant pressure, use a pressure regulator.

Propane gas

Gas used as fuel. The boiling point at atmospheric pressure is at -42°C . This means the gas can be used at low temperatures.

Seal

Only sealed gas cylinders may be traded. An intact seal gives the assurance of a safe, properly-functioning gas cylinder filled with the right amount and right gas composition.

Pre-assembled coupling piece

Factory-mounted fitting.

Gooseneck

Pre-assembled connector between two gas cylinders consisting of two copper plumbing pipes, each fitted with an expansion vent, connected to the gas cylinder valve on one side and to a tee fitting on the other, to which the pressure regulator is connected at the third connection point.

Article 154.- General provisions

- § 1. This section does not prejudice applicable regulations enforced by higher authorities. The gas containers for liquefied petroleum gases and the use thereof shall inter alia be in accordance with the Royal Decree of 7 December 1999 for the filling, distribution and labelling thereof.
- § 2. In case of risks, the fire department can impose additional conditions.
- § 3. It is forbidden to smoke or light an open fire when connecting gas cylinders.
- § 4. The cylinder valve is always opened manually and not with tools.
- § 5. Leaks shall be traced with a foaming leaking fluid instead of with fire. The installation shall always be shut down in case of a leak until the leak is solved.
- § 6. The protective cover may never be unscrewed with unsuitable tools.
- § 7. Balloons filled with flammable gas are not allowed.

Article 155. Installation of gas cylinders and gas installations

- § 1. The total number of gas cylinders may be no more than 5 cylinders. This is the sum of the full back-up cylinders, the empty cylinder and the cylinders in use (combination). The total water content of the sum of these 5 bottles may not exceed 300 litres.
- § 2. The stock of gas cylinders near the installation may not be more than maximum one day of operation.
- § 3. The storage of full or empty cylinders or the use of gas cylinders in rooms below street level is prohibited. Installation near a cellar opening or sewage opening is also prohibited.
- § 4. Cylinders may not be placed in the vicinity of any heat source.
- § 5. Gas cylinders, whether full or empty, shall always be stored/installed upright, in a stable position and in a well-ventilated space:
- in open air,
 - or in a well-ventilated place: in direct contact with the outside air via an aperture of at least 150cm² at the lowest point of the place to be ventilated and extending out into the open air, above the adjacent ground level,
 - protected from collisions or falling over,
 - protected from sun exposure,
 - out of the reach of unauthorised persons,
 - in case of long-term use (2 or more days after each other) the gas cylinders should be stored in such a way that the public has no access them/cannot manipulate them.
- § 6. Full and empty gas cylinders shall be stored separately.
- § 7. A bottle of butane gas may only be used in places where the temperature is higher than 5°C.

§ 8. An extinguisher to be put out the fire rapidly must be on hand near every gas installation:

- with a capacity of 1 extinguishing unit. This can be a 6kg ABC powder extinguisher or 6l AB water/foam extinguisher.
- the extinguishing agents must be ready for operation. They should be clearly visible and easily accessible, if possible hung up where everyone can see them.
- the operator must be able to submit proof of inspection that the extinguishing agents are no older than 12 months upon request.

Article 156.- Gas cylinders, pipes, installations and materials

§ 1. A newly-filled gas cylinder must always be sealed.

§ 2. When a gas cylinder – whether empty or full – is not used, the cylinder valve must always be closed.

§ 3. Gas installations with flexible connections are permitted if the following is taken into account:

- hoses for low-pressure gas: The hose is orange, max. 2 m long (0.5 m for connections of a cylinder with a fixed pipe or appliance), must not be older than 2 years and must state the date of manufacture. Hoses are replaced as soon as tears, cracks or any other abnormal deformities are visible. The hose must be used in between a two-stage pressure regulator or a cylinder pressure regulator and an appliance.
- hoses for low-pressure gas shall always be attached with a hose pillar to a tailpiece.
- hoses for low-pressure gas: for connecting gas cylinders. The hose is black, maximum 1 m long, comes with pre-assembled connectors, may not be older than five years and must state the expiration date.
- the fire department may impose the operators to install new pipelines in case of certain risks.
- hoses may not be connected in series.

§ 4. A single-stage gas pressure regulator may only be used to connect a single appliance. Multiple appliances must always be connected with a two-stage gas pressure regulator.

§ 5. The installation must be done as described in norm NBN-D51-006.

§ 6. The interconnection of the cylinders in a coupled combination must be kept as short as possible by means of:

- a copper gooseneck or a steel connector with valves,
- or hoses approved for the use of liquefied petroleum gases of the “hose for low pressure gas” type.]

-Replacement and amendment under art. 1 municipal council decision dd. 27 April 2009, entry into force: 13 May 2009