

SAFETY SENSE

The Value Of Valves

(NAPSA)—A new type of valve may seal up thousands of people's safety. National Fire Protection Association safety codes now call for overfill protection devices (OPDs) to be installed in propane cylinders before they can be refilled.



Propane tanks with handwheels any shape other than triangular are obsolete.

OPDs are safety valves that shut off the flow of gas into a cylinder at an 80 percent capacity (any more gas may pose a fire risk). The requirement will affect millions of people with gas grills, turkey fryers, camp and RV stoves and patio heaters.

Consumers will need to exchange obsolete cylinders for OPD-fitted ones at providers such as Blue Rhino. Exchange outlets can be found at convenience, grocery and hardware stores, as well as mass merchants and home improvement centers.

"The OPD exchange program will enhance consumer safety, since more than 60 percent of the nation's 3.1 billion annual cook-outs now occur on gas grills," says Rick Belmont, chairman of the Barbecue Industry Association.

For more information visit www.bluerhino.com.