and management agencies use many liquid fuels, such as gasoline, mixed gas, and drip-torch fuel, that are classified as flammable liquids. Special requirements apply for containers and tanks used to transport flammable liquids, and for licensing and training drivers.

Diesel is classified as a combustible liquid. In some cases, the requirements for transporting diesel may be less stringent than for transporting flammable liquids.

Gasoline, mixed gas, drip-torch fuel, and diesel must be transported in the approved fuel containers or tanks listed in this guide. Most of the listed containers meet U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) specifications for transporting flammable liquids. DOT-specification containers are required, because they meet rigorous testing standards established by the United Nations (UN) before they are accepted for use. DOT-specification containers can be identified by their markings. For example, an approved closed-head steel drum will be marked UN 1A1 (figure 1), and an approved steel jerrican will be marked UN 3A1. If a drum or jerrican does not have the proper specification marking, do not use it!

When this guide was prepared, regulations did not require existing fuel containers to be replaced. Existing nonspillproof fuel containers approved by this guide may continue to be used until they are no longer serviceable.

Spillproof containers, commonly referred to as CARB (California Air Resource Board) compliant, are designed to reduce air pollution caused by fuel that evaporates from overfilled containers or from containers that are left open. Safety cans meeting OSHA requirements are exempt from most States’ spillproof container regulations. Pennsylvania does not exempt safety cans. Check with your State environmental regulatory agency for details and the applicability of spillproof container regulations. At the time this guide was prepared, States with these regulations included: California, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Maine. Other States, including Texas and Illinois, are considering adopting these regulations.

The tanks listed for transporting gasoline, mixed gas, and drip-torch fuel also meet DOT specifications. Most tanks available at ranch supply stores do not meet the requirements for transporting flammable liquid and must not be used to transport gasoline, mixed gas, or drip-torch fuel, even though they may be used to transport diesel.

A few types of nonspecification containers are allowed, such as aluminum (Sigg) fuel bottles, plastic (Nalgene) fuel bottles, and some drip torches. In addition, plastic two-compartment fuel and oil containers (often called Dolmars) are also allowed, providing they meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) specifications. Fuel also may be carried in the container it was sold in, such as metal cans of Coleman stove fuel. Manufacturers’ original containers must not be reused to transport other flammable liquids.