

SAFE HANDLING OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AT RETAIL SERVICE STATIONS

IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Petroleum Safety and Security Committee (PSSEC) has flagged out the improper handling of petroleum products at fuel dispensing sites (service stations) across the Country following the temporary distribution disruption that took place between the end of March and early weeks of April 2022.

While the PSSEC recognized the unique circumstances and consequent challenges faced by personnel was no mean task, it was upheld that compliance to safety standards must remain paramount at all times and observance of best practices should be adhered to by all supply chain players at all times.

The PSSEC has reiterated the importance of **continued Health Safety Security and Environment (HSSE) capacity building of service station (SS) dealers, supervisors and attendants**, in order to mitigate against the risk of the aforementioned non-compliance. The requisite capacity building is availed through training programs offered by the PIEA School of Petroleum Studies.

Additionally, the public needs to be continually sensitized on the need and reasons for compliance with the outlined safety protocols at service stations.

The nature of petroleum fuel products require that they are only stored in and dispensed into specially designed equipment that meets the prescribed standards.

The reasons as to why petroleum motor fuels are dispensed from the pumps into the tanks of cars and motorcycles at service stations is because;

- This fuel tank is the correct equipment for fueling cars and motor vehicles.
- The risk of fuel spillage is prevented, hence reducing the risk of fire.
- The risk of SS personnel and customers touching the fuel is prevented hence reducing the risk of exposure to illness that can occur when fuel comes into contact with human body surfaces.
- The risk vehicle and home fires will be high when fuel is dispensed from the pump into portable containers.
- The risk of suffocation from vapor inhalation as well as poisoning from erroneous ingestion by particularly children will be high when fuel is dispensed from the pump into portable containers.
- The risk of exposure to illicit trade and particularly specifically the potential for creation of a black market is eliminated when fuel is dispensed off correctly, specifically into the fuel tank of vehicles and motor cycles.
- The risk of fuel malpractices, especially adulteration of different fuels, is high if fuel is dispensed into portable containers.
- Damage to machinery and environmental degradation from pollution emanated from adulterated fuels is prevented when fuel is dispensed off correctly.

SAFETY COMES FIRST.