

ATTENTION

Fire Marshal and County Hazmat ***Increased Activity and Compliance Inspections***

Many dealerships have experienced recent inspections from their local Fire Marshal office and/or County Hazmat inspectors. One area the inspectors are focusing is the showroom and vehicles on display. The inspectors are following the International Fire Code, which is listed below:

Vehicles in Showrooms

Vehicles on display in showrooms must meet the following requirements:

The following is from the International Fire Code:

Section 314.4 Vehicles. Liquid- or gas-fueled vehicles, fueled equipment, boats or other motorcraft shall not be located indoors except as follows:

1. Batteries are disconnected.
2. Fuel in fuel tanks does not exceed one-quarter tank or 5 gallons (19 L) (whichever is least).
3. Fuel tanks and fill openings are closed and sealed to prevent tampering.
4. Vehicles, fueled equipment, boats or other motorcraft equipment are not fueled or defueled within the building.

Crandall met with one Fire Marshal Deputy who provided some guidance for compliance with the above requirements. However, enforcement and interpretation of the Code will be at the discretion of each inspector having jurisdiction. Crandall makes no guarantee that any recommendations other than strict adherence to the fire code identified above will be acceptable to any or all inspectors or jurisdictions.

If physically disconnecting batteries is impractical or causes hardships with vehicle computers and memory settings, some inspectors may allow disabling the ignition system by removing relays, fuses, or other suitable means as appropriate. Otherwise, the battery will need to be physically disconnected.

Gasoline in fuel tanks must not exceed 5-gallons or one-quarter tank capacity. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Vehicles must not be refueled or defueled within the building or showroom.

Fuel tanks and fill openings must be closed and sealed to prevent tampering. Considering there are many different configurations with different makes and models, there may be several options for compliance with this requirement. For instance, using a locking gas cap will suffice. Another option is to use gaffer tape over the fuel cap or fuel port. Two pieces placed, making an X or +, over the fill opening or cap will suffice. We do not recommend using any tape on painted surfaces or fuel doors. Gaffer tape leaves little or no adhesive residue and can be obtained at local hardware stores and some office supply stores.