

2306.7.3.1

Protection from Vehicle Impact

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: The fire code official has the authority to require additional vehicle impact protection at fuel dispensing facilities.

2018 CODE: 2306.7.3.1 Additional impact protection. *The fire code official is authorized to require additional impact protection in accordance with Section 312 where dispensing devices are located in areas near parking areas, multiple dispensing devices, highway on- and off-ramps, and other areas where there is a higher potential for vehicle impacts.*

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Fuel-dispensing facilities have changed over the past 10-20 years. Many facilities are larger than the previous generations of service stations and there is more on-site traffic because of dispensing operations being combined with mercantile operations. This has led to layouts that do not fit the traditional “wait in line” concept for fueling. The trend to self-service has prompted vehicles navigating through fueling areas, backing up into available fueling positions, and more traffic hazards. In these facilities, the fire code official is now authorized to require additional impact protection.

The IFC provides options on the method of vehicle impact protection. The designer has options of a 6-inch raised curb, guard posts, or other approved equivalent methods. The industry standard is to place impact protection at the end of a row of pumps or provide a 6-inch curb. The 6-inch raised dispenser mounting island provides protection for a parallel vehicle impact and pushes the tire away prior to impact. However, this does not protect against a perpendicular or angled vehicle impact to the island-type dispenser. Impacts from an angular strike are becoming more frequent resulting from jockeying for position.

The new section gives the fire code official the authority to require additional protection, but does not mandate it. There are often designs and layouts where additional protection would not be deemed necessary. The reference to Section 312 provides the flexibility to accept alternative methods of providing vehicle impact protection.



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Fire Code®*, 2018 Edition.

Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.



Fuel dispensing island with additional impact provided adjacent to middle dispensers.