

The technical safety characteristics of a fuel determine the safety measures required for the safe storage, distribution and use of fuels as specified by the respective authorities. The rules applying in the Federal Republic of Germany are known as the "Regulations for Inflammable Liquids".

According to these regulations, inflammable liquids are substances with a flash point which at 35 °C are neither solid nor of pasty consistency, which at 50 °C have a vapor pressure of 3 bar or less, and which belong to one of the following groups:

1. Group A: Liquids which have a flash point not exceeding 100 °C, and which do not show the same characteristics as group B with respect to their solubility in water, i.e. i.e.
- Hazard Class I: Liquids with a flash point of below 21 °C,
- Hazard Class II: Liquids with a flash point of 21 °C to 55 °C,
- Hazard Class III: Liquids with a flash point of over 55 °C up to 100 °C.

2. Group B: Liquids with a flash point of below 21 °C which dissolve in water at any ratio at 15 °C, or whose inflammable liquid components dissolve in water at any ratio at 15 °C.

Hazards class A I covers gasoline fuel and various paints and varnishes.

Hazards class A II includes e.g. petroleum, wax preservative in conformity with Sheet 385.1/.2/.3/.4/.5 and test gasoline.

Class A III includes diesel fuel and heating oils.

Group B includes alcohols such as methanol, MB windshield washer fluid and ethanol.

Special regulations concerning the installation and use of fuel dispensing pumps and storage tanks apply to each Hazards Class. They can be inspected at the appropriate authorities.