

# **API Color-symbol System to Identify Equipment, Vehicles, and Transfer Points for Petroleum Fuels and Related Products at Dispensing and Storage Facilities and Distribution Terminals**

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 1637  
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## Introduction

This edition reflects the addition of propane/liquified petroleum gas, liquid natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG) and hydrogen. As a result, the Color-symbol system has been updated to reflect these changes.

The previous version published in 2020 included the addition of renewable fuels and petroleum/renewable fuel blends to dispensing facilities and distribution terminals, as well as diesel exhaust fluid (DEF).

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# API Color-symbol System to Identify Equipment, Vehicles, and Transfer Points for Petroleum Fuels and Related Products at Dispensing and Storage Facilities and Distribution Terminals

## 1 Scope

This recommended practice describes a system for marking equipment used to store and handle bulk petroleum, alcohol-blended petroleum and biodiesel products. The equipment marking color-symbol system described in this recommended practice facilitates easy identification of products by means of colors, symbols and alphanumeric designations. The principal purpose of this marking system is to identify product transfer points for tank truck loading and unloading at distribution terminals and retail outlets to prevent errors in product handling.

The marking system described in this recommended practice does not cover aviation fuels.

### 1.1 System Purpose

A uniform and easily understood identification system facilitates petroleum industry operations. Such a system helps prevent unintended or accidental mixing of multiple products.

The principal purpose of this Color-symbol system is to clearly identify critical equipment to help prevent errors in product handling. Personnel who handle products should be familiar with any identification and Color-symbol system used to designate products.

### 1.2 System Design

The system described in this recommended practice describes a Color-symbol system that facilitates easy identification of products by means of colors, symbols and/or graphics, and text designations. The following additional measures may be used to implement the system:

- providing charts to identify permanent locations of products at a facility (e.g. storage tank, loading arm);
- using stencils, decals, or metal or plastic tags to identify product names on equipment.

Names or product code numbers are helpful when a program is initiated, but these should only be used as secondary means of identification. Many names contain words in common with multiple products, which can result in incorrect identification; for example, unleaded gasoline products may be super unleaded gasoline, regular unleaded gasoline, or either of these with an additive such as ethanol. Company names and product code numbers may be used whenever they are needed to supplement the Color-symbol system.

## 2 Normative References

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any addenda) applies.

API Recommended Practice 1615, *Installation of Underground Petroleum Storage Systems*

API Recommended Practice 1542, *Identification Color-symbols for Dedicated Aviation Fuel Manufacturing and Distribution Facilities, Airport Storage and Mobile Fueling Equipment*

40 CFR,<sup>1</sup> Part 279, *Standards for the Management of Used Oil*

<sup>1</sup> *The Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov).