

NWCG Equipment Technology Committee

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To: Chain saw operators, fire caches, purchase agents

From: Nathan Hesse, Chair, NWCG Equipment Technology Committee (ETC)

Subject: Two-compartment fuel and oil container (Dolmar) unavailable in the United States (US) and reminders for upkeeping current inventories.



Issue: The two-compartment fuel and oil container (Dolmar) is not being manufactured in a configuration that meets US regulatory agency requirements. Other than stock on hand in stores, it is currently unavailable to purchase and is likely to remain unavailable into the future.

Action: Determine which alternate fuel and oil containers will support your operations best and plan chain saw operations accordingly.

Inspect and maintain your current Dolmars. Discard them when they are no longer serviceable.

Inspection criteria from the *NWCG Standards for Transporting Fuel*, PMS 442, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms442> – Inspect each container before using it to transport fuel to make sure that the spout closure cap and spout O-rings or gaskets are in place and in good condition, the vent cap (if present on older containers) is undamaged and closed, and the body is not damaged. Replace or repair containers that do not meet these criteria.

Background: Land management agencies have used plastic, and more recently metal, two-compartment fuel and oil containers to transport and dispense mixed gas and chain saw bar oil in a manageable, durable, and convenient manner. These containers are required to meet several regulatory agency's requirements to be sold in the US. Manufacturers are either not certifying to those requirements, not manufacturing to meet those requirements, or not receiving enough purchase demand to continue manufacturing the product.

Additional Information: It remains acceptable to use Dolmars that are in serviceable condition in accordance with your agency policy or PMS 442.

When choosing an alternate container, be aware that most consumer plastic fuel containers do not meet regulatory requirements and are prohibited by PMS 442 in most circumstances. You can store and transport chain saw bar oil in consumer plastic, but you must clearly mark the container with a description of its contents.

Options for alternate containers include safety cans, safety transport cans, and military-style metal jerricans of various sizes. You can also use aluminum fuel bottles (Sigg bottles). Consider using a funnel to fill containers and equipment. Do not fill fuel containers beyond the fill line or 90 percent of capacity to allow fuel to expand and reduce the possibility that the container might leak.

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NWCG standards are interagency by design; however, the decision to adopt and utilize them is made independently by the individual member agencies and communicated through their respective directives systems.