

# Advisory

Number 165

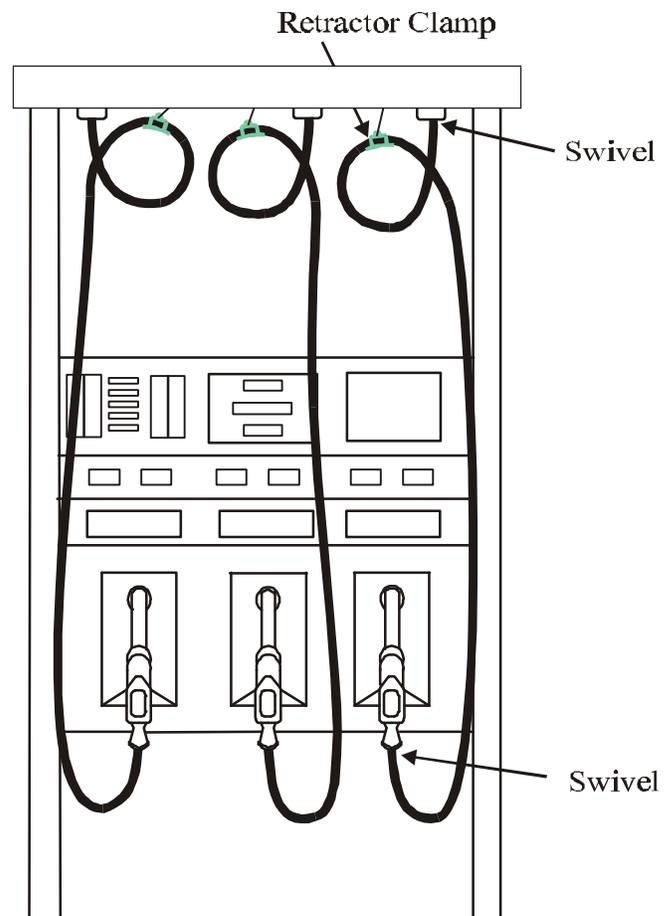
October 20, 1998

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 41954, the Air Resources Board (ARB) is responsible for certifying gasoline vapor recovery equipment for use at retail service stations. During the evaluation process of a vapor recovery system, performance specifications and standards, and component configurations are determined. These parameters are listed in the Executive Orders (certifications) as a reference to verify that subsequent installations are operating as effectively as the system that was observed for certification.

On April 28, 1998, ARB granted the Air Pollution Control/Air Quality Management Districts the authority to deny requests for new installations of, or modifications to, the “curley-Q” high discharge, high retractor configuration on any gasoline vapor recovery system that utilizes a bootless nozzle with inverted coaxial hoses. The purpose of this advisory is to serve as a clarification on the applicability of the curley-Q inverted hose assembly at existing facilities.

The curley-Q design is characterized by the complete loop that is formed when a hose is connected to the top of a dispenser by an overhead retractor, as depicted in the figure. Field investigations revealed that this arrangement may cause the internal vapor path of the loop to temporarily and/or permanently pinch when the hose is fully extended out during the refueling of a vehicle. However, the certifications which apply to current installations do not clearly define whether or not the curley-Q arrangement is acceptable. In the case where a kinking problem is found to exist with a curley-Q, the hose loop and retractor combination must be removed and replaced. A new curley-Q assembly can be re-installed provided that it incorporates a CARB approved swivel at the dispenser end of the hose, along with a wider retractor clamp.

If you have any questions regarding this advisory, please call Laura McKinney at (916) 327-1525.



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