MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
BULLETIN NO. 2010-4

TO:          All Liquefied Compressed Gas Permit Holders
FROM:  Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance
DATE:  September 13, 2010
SUBJECT:  Leak Checks

Mississippi Code Annotated §75-57-9 specifically adopts by reference certain national
codes related to liquefied compressed gas safety, including but not limited to the National Fire
Protection Association Code, Pamphlet 54 (NFPA-54).

NFPA-54 provides for the performance of leak checks on new or interrupted service, and
gives instructions/guidance as to how such leak checks are to be performed. The purpose of this
Bulletin is to remind permit holders of the requirement that these checks be performed, and the
acceptable methods by which said checks should be done.

LEAK CHECKS

I. Leak Checks

A. Leak Checks shall be performed on any interruption of service to an existing system
or first time service of a new customer. NFPA 54, page 54-13, 3.3.64 (2009 Edition)
B. For the purposes of this Bulletin, a new customer includes any propane system that is
new to the propane service provider; any existing system previously served by another
propane service provider; and any customer returning to a service provider after being
served by another propane service provider.

An interruption of service to a propane system means any time any part of the
system has a loss of pressure, for example when a line is replaced, an appliance is
repaired or a new appliance is installed. All “out of gas” situations are interruptions of
service. An out of gas situation occurs both when a tank is completely out of gas, or
when the pressure becomes so low that appliances, heaters, etc. cannot operate and/or
shut off, even though there may technically be some gas in the tank.

C. Any method used for performing a leak check should be sufficient to actually find a
leak if one exists. Suggested methods for performing a Leak Check include the proper
use of lights, the use of a gas meter, and checks performed not using a gas meter, as set

II. Accountability

A. Leak Checks performed in occupied dwellings should include an interior inspection of
the propane system and appliances, and the reigniting pilots and appliances to assure
proper operation of appliances.

B. Documentation of Leak Checks, including the items checked and the results of the
check should be kept on file at the branch or office serving the customer and must be
made available to Mississippi LC Gas Inspector upon request. It is recommended that the
customer or customer representative be present at time the leak check is performed, and
that the customer or customer representative sign the leak check documentation.