



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	June 8, 2010	Interpretation	10-024
Topic	Berthing & Fuel dispensing at a Marina Dock		
Code Section(s)	<b>2007 California Fire Code, Section 2210.3.1 &amp; 2210.5.4</b>		
Requested by	The Boyt Company John T. Boyt 210 Whaler's Walk, Berth #31 San Pedro, CA 907731 (310) 833-8700 (310) 521-9423 (fax)		

The phrase “shall be used exclusively for the dispensing...of petroleum products...” seems subject to interpretation as all facilities in the southern California are co-locate bait receivers, sewage pump-outs, beverage and snack sales, marine hardware and supply sales, fuel polishing and charter boat operations at the fuel docks on a routine basis.

What activities are considered appropriate, authorized, or incidental to, under the “exclusive use” language?

**This section restricts the use of the area adjacent to the fuel-dispensing area to the exclusive use of transferring fuel with the exception of transferring essential ship stores. This provision is not intended to restrict the berthing or other uses on the pier or floating structure away from the fuel-transferring docking area. Fuel-dispensing hoses must not be stretched over one vessel to reach another; that is, one vessel cannot be docked parallel and alongside another vessel while taking on fuel.**  
(2006 International Fire Code; Code and Commentary Handbook)

The prohibition that “Vessels or craft shall not be made fast to fuel docks serving other vessels or craft occupying a berth at a marine fuel-dispensing facility.” is confusing.

Does the current code prevent a vessel from being berthed at a fuel dispensing facility?

**The intent of this provision is to prevent two or more vessels from mooring alongside each other at a fuel dock. If an accident happens at a marine fuel-dispensing facility, the vessels should be able to cast off their docking lines and get underway without having to untie another vessel. The fuel-dispensing hose should never cross one vessel to get to another.**

(2006 International Fire Code; Code and Commentary Handbook)