

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Division of Measurement Standards  
8500 Fruitridge Road  
Sacramento, CA 95826

DMS NOTICE  
G – 03 – 2

July 28, 2003

Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: Safety Notice for Hold-Open Latches on Retail Gasoline Nozzles**

We have been notified of cases where nozzle hold-open latch release-springs on retail gasoline dispensers fail, either during operation or after an automatic shut-off on a prepay purchase. This can result in product flow when the dispenser is activated or the inability to stop delivery in the normal way by compressing (lifting) the nozzle lever. The reported incidents involve nozzles with latches placed within the lever loop as opposed to those that catch onto the end of the lever furthest away from the spout end.

Weights and measures officials are reminded to be aware of emergency shut-off locations prior to initiating inspections or fuel purchases at service stations. When testing or operating dispensers, check the position and condition of the lever and hold-open latch prior to authorizing a dispenser.

When malfunctioning shut-off hardware is encountered, the nozzle should be red-tagged and locked out of service.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Ken Lake, Program Supervisor, at (916) 229-3047 or by email at [klake@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:klake@cdfa.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cleary".

Mike Cleary  
Director  
(916) 229-3000

cc: Mike Waldron, Office of State Fire Marshal