

Free Air for Tires at Gas Stations

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December 20, 2019 | 2019-R-0340

Issue

Must service stations provide free compressed air to the public?

This report updates OLR Report [2000-R-1060](#).

Summary

Yes, state law requires licensed fuel retailers (gas or service stations) that sell motor fuel to the public to provide an operable free air compressor during their business hours to any individual requesting to use it to inflate tires. Retailers must post a conspicuous sign, as required by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner, informing the public of their right to access the air compressor. These air compressors must be capable of producing outlet air pressure of at least 80 pounds per square inch ([CGS § 14-325a](#)).

Fuel retailers are licensed by DCP. Consumers who believe the free air law is being violated may file a complaint with DCP.

JSB:kl