



Steel Container Demand

Global demand for steel is impacting the supply and delivery of steel containers for the propane industry, among other sectors of the domestic economy. In response to this impact, NPGA collected feedback and recommendations from the Manufacturers and Distributors Sections of the Board. Propane industry businesses may consider the below information and act accordingly, including any necessary communication to consumers.

- There are considerable lead times for propane tanks of all sizes; approximately 16 weeks, on average;
- High cylinder demand through the typical offseason has prevented adequate cylinder manufacturing to build inventory;
- A major factor is the extremely high demand for steel, and correlating prices more than doubling since two years ago, which impacts the procurement and manufacture of containers of all sizes;
- Workforce demands are also contributing to delays, such as shortages in drivers to deliver finished goods;
- It's recommended that propane marketers place orders as soon as possible with immediate orders likely to be delivered in early 2022;
- Propane marketers may consider attentive management of current assets through maintenance and refurbishment.

Please direct any questions to [Bruce Swiecicki](#), Senior Technical Advisor, or [Sarah Reboli](#), Senior Director, Regulatory & Industry Affairs.



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