When you assess the risks associated with dispensing operations you will need to take into account the way you operate your site. Consider how the equipment is operated and identify how spills could occur. Then consider the possible ways to prevent each event, and measures to mitigate if it does happen. You will need to decide whether the precautions you have in place are sufficient to control the risk.

Table 4 shows one way you could go through this process. The control measures column gives some examples of the precautions that could be taken; there may well be alternatives. Also, some measures are more appropriate to new sites or those being refurbished than older existing sites, where the cost of them could be disproportionate to the risk. Remember that you must provide sufficient control measures to keep the risk to people’s safety as low as is reasonably practicable.

### Table 4: Controlling the Risks from Dispensing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Risk** | **Control Measures** | **Findings/actions** | **Target Date** | **Suggested Review Date** |
| Vehicle access | Vehicle collision with petrol dispenser while manoeuvring on site | * Provide impact check valves at the base of the dispensers using pressure delivery. * Provide shear valves at the base of the pumps using suction delivery. * Protect dispensers by mounting on properly designed plinths and/or provide safety barriers. * Provide, maintain and mark clear routes to, from and around dispensers. * Ensure adequate lighting. * Train staff to take appropriate action if collision occurs. * Ensure that spills of petrol, diesels etc are cleared up promptly – to reduce the risk of vehicles skidding. |  |  |  |
|  | Vehicle collision where vehicles are refuelled on highway. | • Only use attendant operated procedures. • Train staff to take appropriate action if collision occurs.  • Provide notices to alert pedestrians to refuelling activity and hazards. |  |  |  |
| Dispensers | Leak from damaged dispenser. | * Check that dispensers are undamaged, working and are properly maintained. * Do not allow damaged dispensers to be used/activated. |  |  |  |
|  | Leak from damaged hose or nozzle. | * Use dispensers with volume or time limited cut-offs, or fit such devices to existing dispensers. * Ensure that dispenser nozzles and couplings etc are regularly inspected and properly maintained. * Do not allow dispensers with damaged hoses etc to be used. * De-activate hold-open devices on the nozzles of self-service dispensers. * Draw up procedures for emergency shut down. |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Petrol spilled during dispensing. | * Draw up emergency procedures and train staff. * Provide and maintain emergency equipment. * Provide sand to absorb small spills. * Provide changing/washing facilities (including disposable coverall suits) for customers/ employees who are splashed with petrol. |  |  |  |
|  | Member of public drives  away during refuelling | * Install breakaway couplings. * Draw up procedures for emergency shut down. |  |  |  |
| Static Electricity | Ignition of vapours | * Make sure that the resistance of the forecourt surface does not have a resistance 8 exceeding 10 Ω. * Train staff to ensure that portable containers >5 litres capacity are placed on the forecourt before the pump is commissioned. At unattended self-service sites, a notice to this effect should be displayed at the dispenser(s). |  |  |  |
| General |  | * Train staff to take appropriate action if a leak or spill occurs. * Control ignition sources in hazardous area. * Train staff not to activate dispensers when potential ignition sources are present. |  |  |  |