



Guide: IPS Bobtails





Supporting our local veterans
one gallon at a time.

cooperative
ELECTRIC • NATURAL GAS • PROPANE

Bobtails are specialized bulk delivery vehicles equipped with storage tanks. These tanks can safely carry as much as 5,000 gallons or more of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). While bobtail trucks are considerably smaller than semi-trailers and stationary storage tanks, they are highly compact. This allows them to reach locations that larger trucks cannot access, such as narrow driveways and other tight spaces.

The primary components of bobtail trucks include:

- Meter
- Product pump
- Hose Reel
- Ball Valves
- Excess Flow Valves
- Float Gauge
- Internal Valves
- Pressure Relief Valves
- Back Checks



These trucks come in a wide range of sizes and configurations to meet the specific needs of a given application. Most bobtail propane trucks function in the following manner:

1. Receive LPG from a bulk storage facility
2. Deliver the fuel to customers for domestic tank usage
3. Refill bobtail tank from a bulk storage facility

Industrial Propane Service, Inc. (IPS) is a trusted propane industry service provider with over 50 years of experience providing specialized bobtail trucks for customers in the propane industry. In that time, we've grown our capabilities to include a number of innovative products and services, including specialized trucks for propane delivery and on-site truck and trailer services. Learn more about our latest offerings and how they can meet your propane delivery needs.



About IPS Bobtails

When purchasing a bobtail truck, there are many factors to assess, especially the tank size. For instance, small tanks may travel better in mountainous regions. Scheduling practices and propane delivery routes also play a key role in determining the type of truck you'll need. This includes assessing road and weather conditions along routes.

At IPS, we specialize in delivering heavy-duty bobtail trucks that meet the complex demands of propane transportation. Our propane trucks come in a wide variety of sizes and configurations to meet the unique demands of each customer. We work with several renowned chassis brands and models, including:

- **Freightliner**

- **International**

- **Kenworth**

- **Peterbilt**

- **Mack**

A number of accessories and add-on features are also available to ensure peak performance. Our vast engineering capabilities enable fast turnaround build times, regardless of size or configuration requirements.



Clear Vision Enclosures from IPS

Our new Clear Vision Enclosure (CVE) sets a higher industry standard for propane delivery, providing greater visibility from behind the wheel while keeping tanks safe from leakage or exposure to the elements. The benefits these enclosures offer include:

Affordability

The CVE comes at a lower cost compared to conventional enclosures.

Compatibility

The CVE can be used with new or existing tanks.

Easy Access

Piping is easily accessible, taking less than 10 minutes to engage.



Enhanced Construction

The CVE features a durable, lightweight construction with customizable deck and fender materials.

Full Protection

Equipment is covered and protected from inclement weather, including rain, snow, and extreme temperatures.

Improved Safety

This design incorporates pull-away protection.

Improved Visibility

The CVE effectively reduces blind spots.

Proper Connections

The fill hose connection is ergonomically correct, allowing for easier connection during loading of LP-Gas into the bobtail tank.



Smaller Footprint

The CVE is 43 ½-in. wide compared to traditional decks that have a 96-in. width.

Reduced Risk of Corrosion

The CVE requires less piping than traditional decks, resulting in a reduced chance of corrosion and fewer connections that could leak.

Bobtail trucks from IPS that meet Department of Transportation (DOT) industry regulations. They come with flexible financing options and are backed by knowledgeable customer support.



IPS' Bobtail Truck and Trailer Services

Bobtail trucks frequently encounter harsh weather conditions, rough terrain, and highly repetitive use throughout their operational lives. While our bobtail propane trucks are extremely durable, they require routine maintenance to continue operating efficiently and smoothly.

At IPS, we have the resources to provide time-saving bobtail/trailer inspections, testing, and maintenance at affordable prices. We work with customers to assess their pain points and use advanced tools and methods to make the process as quick and easy as possible. Our expert team can perform the following truck and trailer services:



- DOT Inspections
- On-Site Bobtail Testing and Repairs
- Hydrotesting
- Pump & Meter Repairs
- Internal Inspections
- V & K (Visual) Inspections
- Meter Calibrations
- Wet Mags



IPS Bobtail Equipment Specifications

IPS bobtail equipment provides everything needed for the efficient and safe delivery of propane. Customers can choose from our open deck, closed deck, or Clear Vision Enclosure truck options. Multiple deck and fender material options are available for our CVE trucks, including steel, stainless steel, and aluminum.

Our bobtail equipment options include:

Delivery Hose

Thermoid / Dayco / Fairview (125 or 150 ft. lengths available)



Hose Reel

Marshall Excelsior / Hannay



Lights

Betts



Meters

Neptune / Liquid Controls



Meter Cover

Stainless Steel / Aluminum / Poly



Tank Paint Colors

Single / Two-Tone



Pump

3-in. Blackmer



Remote Shut-Down System Base Engineering



Tank Options

3,000 / 3,200 / 3,499 / 5,000-gallon capacities (other options available upon request)



Toolbox

18 x 18 x 36 Aluminum (custom options available)



Valves & Safety RegO®



Additional Considerations

Additional factors to consider when choosing IPS bobtail equipment for propane delivery include the following:

- 1 Bobtail tanks used for splash filling or on-site filling of cylinders require specialized piping and valves.
- 2 A tank with a capacity greater than 3,200 gallons will require a lift axle for safe handling.
- 3 Trucks will need a tandem axle chassis for tanks with a capacity greater than 3,499 gallons.
- 4 Bobtails can have remote shutdown systems for meter read-out and hose reel controls for added convenience.



Bobtail Propane Truck Solutions From IPS

Bobtail propane trucks play a vital role in safely delivering LPG. While size and configuration can vary, their performance on the road shouldn't. Working with a trusted provider such as IPS helps customers uncover cost-effective, efficient solutions for propane delivery.

With over 300 years of combined technical experience, our team has the necessary skills and resources to handle the propane needs of our loyal customers. Our unique capabilities include innovative propane truck designs, on-site assistance, and other truck and trailer services to meet our customers' varying needs. We also provide Clear Vision Enclosures designed for safe and efficient propane delivery.

Our expert team works closely with customers to ensure they receive a propane delivery solution that suits their unique needs. We can configure customized bobtail propane trucks with a Peterbilt, Kenworth, International, or Freightliner chassis. We also offer a variety of options for the following components:

- Air Systems
- Deck and Fenders
- Electrical Controls
- Piping
- Tanks
- Valves

IPS can even design a custom logo or use supplied artwork for customers upon request.

[Contact us](#) today to learn more about our bobtail propane trucks. Explore our [online resources](#) and see how IPS can help with all your propane delivery needs.



A family of solutions for the Propane Industry

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Our goal is to exceed our customer's expectations by providing quality equipment with exceptional service while maintaining current safety and technical requirements.

Industrial Propane Service, Inc. was established in 1968 by Charles and Helen Vandemark. The company's main focus in the beginning was propane and anhydrous ammonia service and construction.

As the propane industry grew, so did IPS, eventually expanding to focus on service work, building new bobtails, and installing all types of propane storage facilities. In 1980, IPS, already being a distributor for LC meters, Blackmer pumps and many other products, became a full line distributor for RegO products.

In 1996, under the ownership and direction of Robert Vandemark, IPS was divided into two separate companies, IPS Equipment, Inc. (IPSE), and Industrial Propane Service, Inc. (IPS). IPSE is responsible for all wholesale activity and is a full line distributor for propane equipment and heating and hearth products, while IPS performs plant construction, bobtail sales and service, transport service, and pumping stations.

Currently, the third generation of the Vandemark family manages the daily operations of IPS and IPSE. Jeff Vandemark, Rob Vandemark and Kim Godlewski and their employees are dedicated to upholding the premise of service which the company was built on – to offer quality service and superior customer support. IPS and IPSE offer a “family of solutions for the propane industry”.

[Contact Us](#)

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