

Safe Access/Egress Involving Floating Roofs of Storage Tanks in Petroleum Service

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Foreword

This recommended practice (RP) is intended to provide information associated with safe access/egress involving floating roofs of tanks in petroleum service. This RP includes a discussion of the common hazards associated with these operations and the appropriate precautions for preventing accidents and injuries.

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Suggested revisions are invited and should be submitted to the director of the Health and Environmental Affairs Department, American Petroleum Institute, 1220 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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1 Scope and Objectives

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 This recommended practice (RP) addresses the hazards associated with access/egress onto external and internal floating roofs of in-service petroleum storage tanks and identifies some of the most common practices and procedures for safely accomplishing this activity.

1.1.2 This RP is intended primarily for those persons who are required to perform inspection, service, maintenance, or repair activities that involve descent onto floating roofs of in-service petroleum tanks.

1.1.3 This RP does not cover general considerations that apply to climbing onto petroleum storage tanks and other structures, including, but not limited to:

- a) slippery or ice-covered stairways and walkways,
- b) access during electrical storms, and
- c) access during emergency conditions (such as to extinguish a fire or cover exposed product with foam).

This RP may not apply to daily or routine tasks of tank gaugers and other personnel involved in non-permit-required confined spaces; however, such persons shall be trained and shall be made aware of the potential hazards described herein.

1.1.4 Preparations and precautions for entering petroleum storage tanks that have been removed from service for cleaning are covered in API 2015.

1.1.5 Some owner/operators have policies that are more stringent than those in this document. Some owner/operators do not permit access onto floating roofs while the tanks are in service. In these cases, owner/operator policies will supersede this document with respect to safe access requirements and limitations.

1.2 Objectives

This RP has the following objectives:

- a) to identify the potentially hazardous conditions associated with access/egress onto external and internal floating roofs of storage tanks while the tanks are in petroleum service; and
- b) to establish general precautionary measures appropriate to individual situations.

2 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

API Standard 650, *Welded Tanks for Oil Storage*

API Standard 2015, *Requirements for Safe Entry and Cleaning of Petroleum Storage Tanks*

API Recommended Practice 2027, *Ignition Hazards Involved in Abrasive Blasting of Atmospheric Storage Tanks in Hydrocarbon Service*