

# Inspection Practices for Atmospheric and Low-Pressure Storage Tanks

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 575  
THIRD EDITION, APRIL 2014



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

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# Inspection Practices for Atmospheric and Low-Pressure Storage Tanks

## 1 Scope

This document provides useful information and recommended practices for the maintenance and inspection of atmospheric and low-pressure storage tanks. While these maintenance and inspection guidelines may apply to other types of tanks, these practices are intended primarily for existing tanks which were constructed to one of the following four standards: API 12A, API 12C, API 620, or API 650. This document addresses the following:

- a) descriptions and illustrations of the various types of storage tanks;
- b) new tank construction standards;
- c) maintenance practices;
- d) reasons for inspection;
- e) causes of deterioration;
- f) frequency of inspection;
- g) methods of inspection;
- h) inspection of repairs;
- i) preparation of records and reports;
- j) safe and efficient operation;
- k) leak prevention methods.

This Recommended Practice (RP) is intended to supplement API 653, which provides minimum requirements for maintaining the integrity of storage tanks after they have been placed in service.

## 2 Normative References

### 2.1 Codes, Standards and Related Publications

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API Specification 12A, *Specification for Oil Storage Tanks with Riveted Shells* (withdrawn)

API Specification 12B, *Bolted Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids*

API Specification 12C, *API Specification for Welded Oil Storage Tanks* (withdrawn)

API Specification 12D, *Field Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids*

API Specification 12E, *Specification for Wooden Production Tanks* (withdrawn)