

# Requirements for Safe Entry and Cleaning of Petroleum Storage Tanks

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## Contents

	Page
<b>1</b>	Scope..... 1
<b>1.1</b>	General..... 1
<b>1.2</b>	Non-applicability and Other Tank-cleaning Applications..... 1
<b>2</b>	Normative References..... 1
<b>3</b>	Terms and Definitions..... 2
<b>4</b>	Administrative Controls and Procedures..... 9
<b>4.1</b>	General..... 9
<b>4.2</b>	Hazard Identification..... 9
<b>4.3</b>	Hazard Evaluation..... 10
<b>4.4</b>	Hazard Mitigation Strategies..... 10
<b>4.5</b>	Written Tank-cleaning/Entry Programs..... 10
<b>4.6</b>	Written Tank-specific Cleaning/Entry Plans..... 13
<b>4.7</b>	Regulatory Requirements..... 14
<b>4.8</b>	Tank-cleaning/Entry Overview..... 14
<b>5</b>	Preparing the Tank for Cleaning and Entry..... 15
<b>5.1</b>	Initial Preparation (Prior to Tank-cleaning/Entry Operations)..... 15
<b>5.2</b>	Removal from Service..... 16
<b>5.3</b>	Isolating the Tank..... 17
<b>5.4</b>	Control of Ignition Sources..... 18
<b>5.5</b>	Vapor- and Gas-freeing, Degassing, and Ventilating..... 20
<b>5.6</b>	Initial Tank Cleaning..... 21
<b>6</b>	Testing the Tank Atmosphere..... 21
<b>6.1</b>	Atmospheric Testing Procedures..... 21
<b>6.2</b>	Atmospheric Testing Instruments..... 21
<b>6.3</b>	Atmospheric Testing..... 21
<b>6.4</b>	Acceptable Limits..... 23
<b>7</b>	Storage Tank Hazards..... 24
<b>7.1</b>	General..... 24
<b>7.2</b>	Oxygen Deficiency and Enrichment..... 24
<b>7.3</b>	Fire and Explosion Hazards..... 26
<b>7.4</b>	Toxic Substances..... 26
<b>7.5</b>	Physical and Other Hazards..... 29
<b>7.6</b>	Heat Stresses..... 30
<b>7.7</b>	Pyrophoric Iron Sulfide..... 30
<b>7.8</b>	Floating Roof Hazards..... 31
<b>7.9</b>	Hazard Assessment to Determine Permit-required Confined Space..... 34
<b>8</b>	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)..... 34
<b>8.1</b>	Protective Clothing and Equipment..... 34
<b>8.2</b>	Respiratory Protection..... 36
<b>9</b>	Tank-cleaning/Entry Personnel..... 38
<b>9.1</b>	General..... 38
<b>9.2</b>	Entry Supervisors..... 39
<b>9.3</b>	Entrants..... 42

## Contents

	Page
9.4 Attendants.....	43
9.5 Atmospheric Tester (Tester).....	44
10 Entering and Working inside the Tank .....	45
10.1 General .....	45
10.2 Entry Permit .....	46
10.3 Floating Roof Stabilization .....	46
10.4 Heat Stress .....	48
10.5 Ventilation .....	48
10.6 Tank Safe (Cold) Work, Maintenance, and Repairs.....	50
10.7 Undesirable Product, Sludge, and Residue Disposal .....	50
10.8 Coordination .....	50
11 Hot Work and Tank Repairs .....	51
11.1 General .....	51
11.2 Hot Work Permits.....	52
11.3 Hot Work Hazards.....	52
11.4 Hot Work In Organic Leaded Service Tanks .....	53
11.5 Fire Prevention .....	54
12 Emergency Planning.....	54
12.1 Emergency Response Plan .....	54
12.2 Outside Rescue Services .....	55
12.3 Employer Rescuers .....	56
12.4 Rescue Equipment .....	56
12.5 Other Emergencies.....	57
12.6 Medical Emergencies .....	57
13 Return To Service .....	58
13.1 General .....	58
13.2 Preparation .....	59
13.3 Refilling Tanks.....	59
13.4 Sampling and Gauging Tanks .....	60
13.5 Control of Ignition Sources .....	60
14 Training .....	61
14.1 General .....	61
14.2 Training Requirements.....	61
14.3 Training Verification .....	61
14.4 Qualification .....	61
Annex A (informative) Petroleum Storage Tank Hazards .....	62
Annex B (informative) Vapor-freeing and Degassing Procedures .....	98
Annex C (informative) Tank Cleaning .....	112
Annex D (Reserved for Future Use) .....	120
Annex E (informative) Oxygen, Combustible Gas, and Toxic Substance Testing Instruments.....	121

## Contents

	Page
Annex F (informative) Safe Tank Entry for Activities Other than Tank Cleaning.....	127
Bibliography.....	141

## Figures

<b>A.1</b>	Lateral Movement of Floating Roof.....	90
<b>A.2</b>	Rim Space Blocking with Rim Wedges.....	90
<b>A.3</b>	Rim Space Blocking with Rim Jacks.....	91
<b>A.4</b>	Rotational Movement of Floating Roof.....	91
<b>A.5</b>	Spiral Collapse Caused by Floating Roof Rotation.....	91
<b>A.6</b>	Welded Blank Nuts, Shackles, and Chain-type Anti-rotation System.....	92
<b>A.7</b>	Manway-anchored Anti-rotation.....	92
<b>A.8</b>	Radial Beam and Anti-rotation Bracket System.....	92
<b>A.9</b>	Leg Kickout.....	93
<b>A.10</b>	Jack Post for Vertical Support.....	93
<b>A.11</b>	Timber for Vertical Support.....	93
<b>A.12</b>	Cribbing Stack for Vertical Support.....	93
<b>A.13</b>	Elevation Diagram Showing High-leg and Low-leg Positions.....	94
<b>A.14</b>	Improper Pinning (Leaving One Leg in High-leg Position).....	94
<b>A.15</b>	Improper Pinning (Leaving One Leg in a Low-leg Position).....	94
<b>A.16</b>	Water Accumulation on Floating Roof.....	95
<b>A.17</b>	Water Accumulation in Floating Roof Pontoons.....	95
<b>A.18</b>	Liquid in the Floating Roof Panel Sections.....	96
<b>A.19</b>	Concentrated Loads of Staged Materials.....	96
<b>A.20</b>	Vacuum or Uplift on Floating Roof from Venting.....	97
<b>A.21</b>	Working under Suspended Load.....	97

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# Requirements for Safe Entry and Cleaning of Petroleum Storage Tanks

## 1 Scope

### 1.1 General

This standard is applicable to stationary atmospheric low-pressure (up to and including 103 kPa [15 psig]) aboveground petroleum storage tanks used in all sectors of the petroleum and petrochemical industry, including:

- crude oil and gas production;
- refining;
- petrochemicals;
- pipelines and terminals;
- bulk storage;
- ethanol facilities.

This standard provides requirements for safely planning, coordinating, and conducting tank entry and cleaning operations, from removal from service through return to service.

This standard does not and cannot cover every possible unique hazard or situation that may arise during tank-cleaning operations. Site, product, and tank-specific hazards and situations shall be addressed by employers using the appropriate principles and considerations provided for in this standard.

### 1.2 Non-applicability and Other Tank-cleaning Applications

This standard does not apply to the following types of tanks or vessels:

- pressure vessels and pressurized tanks exceeding 103 kPa (15 psig);
- cryogenic or refrigerated vessels or pressure tanks;
- vessels and tanks maintained under a vacuum;
- process vessels;
- underground storage tanks.

Although API Standard 2015 is not intended to cover these types of tanks and vessels, many of the safe tank-cleaning and entry principles and requirements in this standard apply and should be considered.

## 2 Normative References

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any addenda) applies.

API Recommended Practice 2003, *Protection Against Ignitions Arising Out of Static, Lightning, and Stray Currents*

API Recommended Practice 2009, *Safe Welding, Cutting and Hot Work Practices in the Petroleum and Petrochemical Industries*