Requirements for Safe Entry and Cleaning of Petroleum Storage Tanks

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Shall: As used in a standard, "shall" denotes a minimum requirement in order to conform to the standard.

Should: As used in a standard, "should" denotes a recommendation or that which is advised but not required to conform to the standard.

May: As used in a standard, "may" denotes a course of action permissible within the limits of a standard.

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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 or by 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*