Recommended Practices for Installation of Aboveground Storage Systems for Motor Vehicle Fueling

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Recommended Practices for Installation of Aboveground Storage Systems for Motor Vehicle Fueling

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FOREWORD

These *Recommended Practices for Installation of Aboveground Storage Systems for Motor Vehicle Fueling* have been prepared as an industry service by the Petroleum Equipment Institute. The text represents the consensus views of the PEI Aboveground Tank Installation Committee, comprised of the following members:

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This document supersedes and replaces the previous recommended practice entitled, *Recommended Practices for Installation of Aboveground Storage Systems for Motor Vehicle Fueling,* PEI/RP200-13.

All questions and other communications relating to this document should be sent only to PEI Headquarters, addressed to the attention of the PEI Aboveground Tank Installation Committee.

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CONTENTS

Foreword iii

SECTIONS

1. Introduction 1
- 1.1 Background 1
- 1.2 Purpose 1
- 1.3 Scope 1
- 1.4 Source 1
- 1.5 Use of PEI/RP100 1
- 1.6 Importance of Competent Installers 1
- 1.7 Written Plans and Specifications 2
- 1.8 Federal Regulations 2
- 1.9 Approval of Local Authorities 2

2. Site Planning 3
- 2.1 Tank Location 3
- 2.2 Tank Configurations 3
- 2.3 Property Lines and Buildings 3
- 2.4 Tank Spacing Requirements 3
- 2.5 Bases and Foundations 3
- 2.6 Retail Service Stations 3
- 2.7 Commercial Fleet Fueling Facilities 3
- 2.8 Marinas 4
- 2.9 Product Deliveries 4
- 2.10 Traffic Flow 4
- 2.11 SPCC Plan 4
- 2.12 Electronic Equipment 4
- 2.13 Physical Protection 4
- 2.14 Fire Protection 4
- 2.15 Utilities 4
- 2.16 Emergency Planning 5

3. Foundations, Support and Anchorage 6
- 3.1 General 6
- 3.2 Soil Analysis 6
- 3.3 Tank Foundation Design 6
- 3.4 Excavation 6
- 3.5 Base Course 7
- 3.6 Vertical Tank Bases 7
- 3.7 Horizontal Tank Saddles 7
  - 3.7.1 Electrical Isolation of Tank Saddles 7
- 3.8 Reinforced Concrete Tank Slabs 8
- 3.9 Anchoring 8

4. Dikes 9
- 4.1 Purpose 9
  - 4.1.1 Alternatives to Diking 9
- 4.2 Dike Capacity 9
- 4.3 Dike Construction 9
- 4.4 Impervious Barrier 9
- 4.5 Dike Penetrations 9
- 4.6 Access 9
- 4.7 Drainage Control 10
- 4.8 Oil/Water Separator 10

5. Vaults and Special Enclosures 11
5.1 General 11
5.2 Vault Design 11
5.3 Vault Construction 11
5.4 Venting 11
5.5 Leak Detection 11
5.6 Liquid Recovery 12
5.7 Vault Ventilation 12
5.8 Collision Protection 12
5.9 Electrical Installation 12
5.10 Special Enclosures 12

6. Tanks 13
6.1 General 13
6.2 Standards 13
6.2.1 Underwriters Laboratories 13
6.2.1.1 Horizontal Tanks 13
6.2.1.2 Vertical Tanks 13
6.2.1.3 Protected Tanks 13
6.2.2 Steel Tank Institute 13
6.3 Tank Openings 14
6.4 Preinstallation Inspection 14
6.5 Material Handling 14
6.6 Air-and-Soap Test 14
6.6.1 Preparation 14
6.6.2 Testing Equipment 14
6.6.3 Testing Single-Walled Tanks 14
6.6.4 Testing Multi-Walled Tanks 15

7. Pumps and Valves 16
7.1 Materials and Design 16
7.2 Pumping Systems 16
7.2.1 Suction Pumping Systems 16
7.2.2 Remote Pumping Systems 17
7.3 Fire/Emergency Valves 17
7.4 Block Valves 17
7.5 Anti-Siphon Valves 18
7.6 Check Valves 18
7.7 Pressure Relief Valves 18

8. Tank Filling, Gauging, Dispensing and Venting 19
8.1 Materials and Design 19
8.2 Tank Filling 19
8.2.1 Submerged Fill Tubes 19
8.2.2 Spill Prevention 20
8.2.3 Overfill Protection 20
8.2.4 Hydraulic Shock 20
8.3 Dispensing Systems 20
8.4 Gauging Systems 21
8.5 Tank Venting 21
8.5.1 Normal Venting 21
8.5.2 Emergency Venting 21

9. Aboveground Piping and Fittings 23
9.1 General Requirements for Aboveground Piping 23
9.2 Aboveground Piping Materials 23
9.3 Aboveground Piping Practices 23
9.4 Aboveground Piping Layout 23
9.5 Fittings for Aboveground Piping 24
9.6 Testing Aboveground Piping 24
9.7 Corrosion Protection for Aboveground Piping 24

10. Underground Piping and Fittings 25
10.1 General Requirements for Underground Piping 25
10.2 Underground Piping Materials 25
10.3 Underground Piping Practices 25
10.4 Underground Piping Layout and Trenches 25
10.5 Underground Piping Backfill and Compaction 25
10.6 Fittings for Underground Piping 26
10.6.1 Flexible Connectors 26
10.6.2 Unions 26
10.7 Corrosion Protection for Underground Piping Components 26
10.8 Underground Fiberglass Piping 26
10.9 Underground Flexible Piping 26
10.10 Containment Sumps 26
10.11 Testing of Underground Primary Piping 27
10.11.1 Initial Test 27
10.11.2 Monitoring During Construction 27
10.11.3 Precision Tightness Test 27
10.12 Testing of Underground Secondary Piping 27
10.12.1 Initial Test for Underground Secondary Piping 27
10.12.2 Monitoring During Construction 27
10.12.3 Final Tightness Test for Secondary Piping 27

11. Corrosion Protection 28
11.1 General 28
11.2 Applicability 28
11.3 Coatings 28
11.3.1 Tank-Bottom Coatings 28
11.3.2 Fiberglass Coatings 28
11.4 Protection of Buried Metallic Components 28
11.5 Galvanic Cathodic Protection 28
11.5.1 Galvanic Anode Installation 29
11.5.2 Galvanic Cathodic Protection for Piping 29
11.5.3 Galvanic Cathodic Protection of Tank Bottoms 29
11.6 Impressed-Current Systems 30
11.7 Wiring and Electrical Connections 30
11.8 Inspection and Testing 30

12. Environmental Protection 31
12.1 General 31
12.2 Release Detection Methods 31
12.2.1 Release Detection Using Secondary Containment 31
12.2.2 Release Detection Using Volumetric Methods 31
12.2.3 Piping Release Detection 31
12.3 Vapor Recovery 31

13. Electrical Installation 32
13.1 General Requirements 32
13.2 Classifications 32
13.3 Electrical Equipment 32
13.4 Emergency Shutoff 32
13.5 Wiring 32
13.6 Intrinsically Safe 32
13.7 Grounding and Bonding 32
13.8 Ensuring Uninterrupted Power 33

14. Testing and Inspection 34
14.1 General 34
14.2 Test Results 34
14.3 Other Testing 34

15. Documentation, Maintenance and Training 36
15.1 "As-Built" Drawings 36
15.2 Component Documentation 36
15.3 Scheduled Maintenance 36
15.4 Training 36

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Size Calculations for Dikes 37
A.1 Volume Calculation 37
A.2 Information Available 37
A.3 Required Containment Volume 37
A.4 Vertical Tanks 37
A.5 Unavailable Capacity 38
A.6 Calculation of Dike Height 38
A.7 Horizontal Tanks 38
A.8 Horizontal Tank Dike Dimensions 38
A.9 Unavailable Capacity – Horizontal Tanks 38
A.10 Additional Requirements 39

Appendix B: Venting 40
B.1 Purpose 40
B.2 Operating/Design Pressure 40
B.3 Normal Venting 40
B.4 Pressure/Vacuum Vents 40
B.5 Emergency Venting 40
B.6 Emergency Vent Sizing 40
B.7 Vent Selection 41
B.8 Calculations for a Cylindrical Horizontal Tank 41
B.9 Calculations for a Cylindrical Vertical Tank 41
B.10 Calculations for a Rectangular Tank 42

Appendix C: Code Requirements for ASTs at Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Facilities 48

Appendix D: Publication Reference 52

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background. Historically, petroleum products at service stations and other motor vehicle fueling sites have been stored in underground tanks. In response to environmental requirements and emerging technology, however, aboveground tanks at motor vehicle fueling sites have become much more common.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this document is to provide a concise reference that describes recommended practices for the installation of aboveground storage systems at service stations, marinas and other motor vehicle fueling sites. The intent is to recommend practices that will minimize the possibility of aboveground storage system failure and reduce fire safety and environmental hazards, while avoiding practices that will needlessly increase installation costs.

This document is not meant to serve as a basic instruction manual. Because storage system installation is a specialized craft, it is assumed that those using these recommended practices will have a fundamental comprehension of essential procedures for pipe fitting, excavating, concrete placement, electrical installation and related construction techniques.

1.3 Scope. These recommended practices apply to aboveground, stationary, shop-fabricated tanks and associated piping and equipment intended to dispense gasoline, diesel and related fluids into motor vehicles at commercial and retail service stations and marinas. These recommended practices may be applied to horizontal and vertical tanks, single- and multi-walled tanks, as well as insulated, fire resistant and protected tanks. Tanks covered in these recommended practices are intended for the storage of liquid motor fuels at or near atmospheric pressure. Product piping associated with these tanks may be aboveground, underground or a combination of the two.

These recommended practices are not intended for terminals, oilfield production tanks, field-fabricated storage tanks, and storage systems for liquefied petroleum gases, liquefied natural gases or compressed natural gases.

For purposes of this document, a tank that is in a vault in which backfill is placed around the tank to any extent is considered an underground tank. Refer to PEI/RP100 for recommended practices concerning underground storage system installation.

These practices relate directly to installation procedures and are not intended to fully address the design, operation, repair or maintenance of aboveground storage tank systems.

This document is not meant to provide interpretation of regulatory or legislative requirements related to tank storage, nor does it endorse or recommend particular materials, equipment, suppliers or manufacturers. The inclusion of procedures for the installation of equipment or devices is not meant to imply that such equipment or devices should always be used. Nothing in this document is intended to discourage the development and implementation of new methods and procedures.

1.4 Source. The practices outlined in this document represent a synthesis of recommendations published by various organizations, including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), International Code Council (ICC), American Petroleum Institute (API), Steel Tank Institute (STI), California Air Resources Board (CARB), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and NACE International (NACE).

In addition, some installation specifications and procedures have been derived from manufacturers of tanks, piping and related equipment. In instances when there were differences or omissions in material available from these sources, the Aboveground Tank Installation Committee of the Petroleum Equipment Institute has included consensus recommendations based on the practical experience of committee members with these systems.

1.5 Use of PEI/RP100. Aboveground tank installations may require some underground construction. For example, to achieve code separation distances between the tank and dispenser, it may be necessary to install piping belowground. The user of this document should refer to PEI/RP100, *Recommended Practices for Installation of Underground Liquid Storage Systems,* for additional guidance in the installation of underground components of aboveground storage systems.

1.6 Importance of Competent Installers. The installation of liquid motor fuel storage systems is a highly complex field and requires a wide range of construction knowledge and experience. In addition to proper design of an aboveground system, reliance on tank installers who possess both the experience and integrity to insist on doing the job right constitutes the greatest protection against ultimate tank system failure and liability exposure.

Written instructions alone will not convert an incompetent or under-supervised installer into a competent craftsman. The ability to recognize and react to unexpected,