



Clarification

Design & Construction of Outside Above-ground Storage Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Issue

There are multiple documents which guide professionals in the design and construction of outside above ground storage tanks. This clarification will assist professionals in meeting the intent of applicable code and standards.

Clarification

The tank shall be built in conformance with the appropriate reference listed in Article 4.3.1.2 of the National Fire Code of Canada (Code). However, when necessitated by possible contamination of the liquid to be stored or possible rapid corrosion of a tank, they may be designed and built in conformance with good engineering practices for the material being used.

It is the responsibility of the professional and owner to ensure that any liquid fuel spill is prevented from flowing outside the spill area and from reaching waterways, sewer systems and potable water sources in conformance with Subsection 4.1.6 of the Code. However, when noncombustible barriers are provided to contain accidental spillage from aboveground storage tanks, these barriers shall conform to the requirements for secondary containment in Subsection 4.3.7 of the Code.

In order to maintain consistency in the plan review, the OFM will accept aboveground storage tanks installed with double-walled construction (all sides) and built in conformance with the Code. This will be accepted as an alternative solution to the provisions of secondary containment listed in the Code. No alternative solution is required by the OFM in this case.

Outdoor tanks installed aboveground in conformance with Section 7.5 of B139¹ are acceptable. Non-metallic tanks with limited capacities as described in Clause 7.5.5(b) are acceptable.

Please note that this advisory does not waive the requirements of any adopted codes and standards or any other local bylaw or the requirements of the Electrical/Mechanical Safety section of the Department of Public Works and Services of the GNWT.

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¹Year of edition shall be as listed in Fire Prevention Regulations or the Article 1.3.1.2. of the Code