

Inspection Practices for Atmospheric and Low-pressure Storage Tanks

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Contents

1	Scope.....	1
2	Normative References	1
2.1	Codes, Standards, and Related Publications.....	1
2.2	Other References	1
3	Terms, Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations	4
3.1	Terms and Definitions	4
3.2	Acronyms and Abbreviations	9
4	Types of Storage Tanks.....	9
4.1	General.....	9
4.2	Atmospheric Storage Tanks	10
4.3	Low-pressure Storage Tanks.....	21
5	Reasons for Inspection and Causes of Deterioration	23
5.1	Reasons for Inspection	23
5.2	Deterioration of Tanks	24
5.3	Leaks, Cracks, and Mechanical Deterioration	26
5.4	Deterioration and Failure of Auxiliary Equipment	29
6	Inspection Plans.....	30
6.1	General	30
6.2	Inspection Planning and Reports.....	31
6.3	Risk-based Inspection Plans	32
7	Interval/Frequency and Extent of Inspection	33
7.1	Interval of Inspection	33
7.2	Condition-based Inspection Scheduling	34
7.3	Inspection Scheduling Based on Minimum Acceptable Thickness	35
7.4	Similar Service Methodology for Establishing Tank Corrosion Rates.....	37
7.5	Fitness-For-Service Evaluation	39
8	Inspections	39
8.1	Inspection Procedure	39
8.2	Preparation for Inspections	39
8.3	External Inspection of an In-service Tank.....	43
8.4	External Inspection of Out-of-service Tanks	58
8.5	Internal Inspection	62
8.6	Hydrostatic and Pneumatic Testing of Tanks	74
8.7	Inspection Checklists	75
9	Leak Testing and Integrity of the Bottom.....	75
9.1	General.....	75
9.2	Leak Detection Methods Available During In-service Periods.....	81
10	Integrity of Repairs and Alterations	84
10.1	General.....	84
10.2	Repairs	85
10.3	Special Repair Methods.....	88
11	Records.....	90
11.1	General.....	90
11.2	Records and Reports.....	90
11.3	Form and Organization.....	91
	Annex A (informative) Selected Nondestructive Examination Methods.....	92
	Annex B (informative) Similar Service Evaluation Tables.....	97

Annex C (informative, normative if used) Less Common Tank and Roof Designs	100
Bibliography	108

Figures

1	Fixed Cone Roof Tank	11
2	Self-supporting Dome Roof Tank	12
3	Umbrella Roof Tank	12
4	Self-supporting Aluminum (Geodesic) Dome Roof Tank	13
5	Externally Stiffened Pan-type Floating-roof Tank	13
6	Annular-pontoon Floating-roof Tank	14
7	Double-deck Floating-roof Tank	14
8	Cross-section Sketches of External Floating-roof Tanks Showing the Most Important Features	16
9	Floating-roof Shoe Seal	17
10	Floating-roof Log Seal	17
11	Floating Roof Using Counterweights to Maintain Seal	18
12	Floating Roof Using Resilient Tube-type Seal	18
13	Typical Arrangement for Metallic Float Internal Floating-roof Seals	19
14	Typical Internal Floating-roof Components	20
15	Cable-supported Internal Floating-roof Tank	20
16	Cracks in Tank Shell Plate	27
17	Extensive Destruction from Instantaneous Failure	27
18	Cracks in Bottom Plate Welds Near the Shell-to-bottom Joint	28
19	Cracks in Tank at Riveted Lap Joint to Tank Shell	28
20	Failure of Concrete Ringwall	45
21	Anchor Bolt with Suspected Corrosion	45
22	Corrosion of Anchor Bolts	46
23	Corrosion Under Insulation	47
24	Close-up of Corrosion Under Insulation	48
25	Corrosion (External) at Grade	49
26	Caustic Stress Corrosion Cracks	51
27	Small Hydrogen Blisters on Shell Interior	52
28	Large Hydrogen Blisters on Shell Interior	52
29	Tank Failure Caused by Inadequate/Obstructed Vacuum Venting	54
30	Roof Overpressure	54
31	Example of Severe Corrosion of Tank Roof	59
32	Collapse of Pan-type Roof from Excessive Weight of Water While the Roof Was Resting on Its Supports	61
33	Pontoon Floating-roof Failure	61
34	Rolling Scaffold Used for Inspection and Repairs Inside of Tank	63
35	Single-point Suspended Scaffold Used for Inspection and Repairs on Exterior of Tank	63
36	Remotely Controlled Automated Crawler	64
37	Example of Vapor-liquid Line Corrosion	66
38	Corrosion Behind Floating-roof Seal	66
39	Example of Extensive Corrosion of a Tank Bottom	69
40	Shell-to-bottom Weld Corrosion	70
41	External View of Erosion-corrosion Completely Penetrating a Tank Shell	70
42	Internal Corrosion on Rafters and Roof Plates	72
43	Fin-tube Type of Heaters Commonly Used in Storage Tanks	73
44	Example of Corrosion of Steam Heating Coil	73
45	Hydraulic Integrity Test Procedures	76
46	Vacuum Box Used to Test for Leaks	78
47	Vacuum Box Arrangement for Detection of Leaks in Vacuum Seals	78
48	Helium Tester	80
49	Method of Repairing Tank Bottoms	86

50	Temporary “Soft Patch” Over Leak in Tank Roof.....	89
51	Tank Jacked Up for Repairing Pad.....	89
A.1	Automatic Ultrasonic Testing	94
A.2	Magnetic Flux Leakage Scanner	94
A.3	Ultrasonic Examination	95
A.4	Guided Wave Ultrasonic Testing.....	95
A.5	Robotic Inspection Tool	96
C.1	Plain Hemispheroids.....	100
C.2	Noted Hemispheroid	100
C.3	Drawing of Hemispheroid.....	101
C.4	Plain Spheroid	101
C.5	Plain Hemispheroid with Knuckle Radius	102
C.6	Noted Spheroid	102
C.7	Drawing of Noted Spheroid.....	103
C.8	Plain Breather Roof Tanks	104
C.9	Tank with Vapor Dome Roof	105
C.10	Balloon Roof Tank	105
C.11	Cutaway View of Vapor Dome Roof	106

Tables

1	Suggested Basic Tools for Tank Inspection	42
2	Useful Supplemental Tools	42
B.1	Selected Considerations for Performing Similar Service Assessments.....	97
B.2	Similar Service Example for Product-side Corrosion	99

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. Although these maintenance and inspection guidelines may apply to other types of tanks, these practices are intended primarily for existing tanks that were designed and constructed to API aboveground storage tank standards or specifications, as referenced in 2.2.

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 is intended to supplement API 653 (applicable for all tanks) and API 12R1 (as applicable for the API 12 series tanks storing production liquids) that provide 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 Standard 653, *Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction*

2.2 Other References

The following codes and standards are cited in the text of this recommended practice or included in the knowledge base to develop this document. Familiarity with these documents is suggested as they provide additional information pertaining to the inspection and repair of aboveground storage tanks.