Help STI develop repair, modification standards

The Steel Tank Institute (STI) is forming a technical committee to develop a consensus standard for Underground Storage Tank Repair & Modification. STI believes that the consensus process will result in an open, transparent standard that can be relied upon by stakeholders in the industry. We are seeking interested parties to participate in this process.

Draft standard scope
This standard covers the repair and modification of atmospheric-type shop-fabricated carbon and stainless steel underground tanks. It applies to tanks storing stable flammable and combustible liquids at atmospheric pressure. Repairs may be done by either welding, coatings, or a combination of both.

Participant commitment
The process will begin with an in-person meeting in Chicago this summer, followed by conference calls to further develop the standard. The frequency and timing of the meeting and calls will be determined once the development process is underway, and will depend on the needs of the committee and individual task groups. Our goal is to publish the final document in 12-18 months.

If you are interested in participating in development of STI's tank repair/modification standard, please complete this application form and return to Lorri Grainawi, STI Director of Technical Services, lgrainawi@steeltank.com.

UL develops new standards for flammable and combustible liquid storage systems

Underwriters Laboratories is expanding its publications for flammable and combustible liquid storage systems. Many of these publications are considered "outlines" at this time. What's the difference between a UL standard and a UL outline?

Click here for more
Excel spreadsheets, TCO has been completely revised and updated for this online application.

The TCO tool meets industry demand to quantify the Net Present Value of storage tank ownership. The concepts of initial cost, significant renovation costs, and routine maintenance costs are considered for welded steel, bolted steel, and concrete tanks in this powerful tool.

TCO was developed to assist water system managers to analyze the total cost of ownership for three common types of flat-bottom, ground supported water storage tanks (with roofs) constructed in accordance with AWWA standards: Welded Steel Tanks: AWWA D100; Bolted Steel Tanks: AWWA D103; Concrete Tanks: AWWA D110 or D115.

The TCO online tool is free to all users (registration required). Users can both input and store data related to a specific tank or tank project, and study the default data presented in the program. Data is retained for twelve months, and is visible only to the user. There is no limit to the number of tank projects users can store.

Click here to learn more about STI/SPFA’s TCO tool

Economic impact of the American steel industry

A report commissioned by the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) demonstrates the impact of steel on our economy. Timothy J. Considine, professor of energy economics at the University of Wyoming, authored the paper which was published in March 2012.

The report results indicate that the steel industry is leading America out of the recession, due to its central position as the manufacturing material of choice:

- "Multiplier effect: For every $1 increase in sales for iron and steel mills and ferro alloy industries, total output in the US economy increases by $2.66.
- "The steel industry is a job creator, directly or indirectly supporting more than 1 million US jobs.
- "The steel industry is a leading generator of tax revenues for all levels of government."

For key findings and complete report, click here.

Tank and Petroleum Mishaps

Portland, OR: A man died after falling into a holding tank of toxic chemicals on a barge...

St. Augustine, FL: A broken gauge on an above-ground gasoline storage tank caused an explosion and an OSHA "willful violation" for the supply and delivery company...

North Dakota: Inspectors keep tabs on oil field spills...

Click here for these stories
Click here for more Tank Mishaps
NSF on coatings and concrete ingredients

STI/SPFA recently posed some questions to NSF regarding certification of concrete and concrete ingredients, Annex C compliance, and additional testing.

Dave Purkiss, General Manager, Water Treatment and Distribution Systems, NSF International, responds in this article.

Click here for NSF responses

UST capacity of today’s C-stores

Recently, STI staff was asked, "What is the typical underground storage tank capacity installed at new service stations today?"

Twenty-five years ago, the typical UST was 8,000 or 10,000 gallons in capacity, and fittings for pipe connections were, for the most part, placed in the same orientation along the top of a tank. Tanks could be built and inventoried for a wide variety of tank buyers at that time, with two or three tanks installed (24,000 gallons total) for storing several grades of gasoline (and perhaps diesel).

Those days are long gone. Underground storage tanks today are customized and built to order...

Click here for more...

CSB: 3 killed, 4 injured in vapor cloud deflagration and fire

This US Chemical Safety Board investigation report examines "a vapor cloud deflagration and fire that occurred on January 13, 2003, at BLSR Operating, Ltd., near Rosharon, Texas. The fire was caused by the release of hydrocarbon vapor during the unloading of basic sediment and water from two vacuum trucks into an open area collection pit."

There has been a dramatic increase in fracking around the nation in areas that may be unfamiliar with the unique safety challenges of managing its waste products. This report offers good information and an object lesson in preventing this kind of tragedy.

"This report identifies the root and contributing causes of the incident. It makes recommendations on recognizing the flammability hazards of exploration and production waste liquids, and on safely handling flammable liquids," the report abstract says.

Click here to read the complete report

1888 water storage tank still in use

This distinctive standpipe water storage tank in Jefferson City, Missouri, is 124 years old and still in active service. It's one of STI/SPFA's Century Club members, recognizing tanks more than 100 years old.

Steve Ridenour, Missouri American Water's operations supervisor, has a long relationship with the tank. "I've looked at it every weekday for 31 years," he says. "Local public school classes often come to the water
Elevated tank fends off tornado's missile

On April 27, 2011, an EF5 tornado destroyed the town of Smithville, Mississippi. It was a terrible tragedy, but in one case at least, steel held against the strength of the storm. Smithville's 50-year-old elevated water storage tank was dented, but not downed, when it was struck by an airborne automobile during the tornado.

An article in AWWA's Spring 2012 Pipeline journal offers a comprehensive story about the impact of the tornado on Smithville's elevated tank and its water system infrastructure.

Click here to read the article from Pipeline

STI/SPFA Fall Conference registration is open

September 11-13
Intercontinental Hotel, Houston TX

Click here for program and registration

Get the facts about the benefits of steel

STI/SPFA presents our series of STEEL FACTS informational flyers. These single-page handouts dispel the myths and present the simple facts about the benefits of using steel, all of which have been researched by industry experts:

- The Strength of Steel
- Choose Steel for Lifetime Value
- Cathodic Protected Tank Inspection
- Steel Tanks: Compatible with All Biofuel Blends

Click here to get your own copies of Steel Facts

Online learning from STI/SPFA

Cost-effective and convenient, online education and training is a rich resource for you and your employees. STI/SPFA offers these e-learning modules and archived webinars:
Tank Venting Essentials: PreVENTing Catastrophe
Steel Water Tank Standards
Steel Water Tank Construction
Steel Water Tank Coatings and Linings
Steel Water Pipe Installation
Steel Water Pipe Coatings and Linings

Take advantage of these easy-access, low-cost presentations by industry experts.

Click here for e-learning modules
Click here for archived webinars

Water tank’s new life after Great Chicago Fire

The Chicago Architecture Foundation is renowned for its historical tours of the city.

This story is told about an iron water tank that survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and went on to house the city’s first public library.

Click here for the story

STI/SPFA presents unique workshop at Stainless Steel World

Pressure Vessel and Tank Fabrication Using Stainless Steels is a half-day workshop on October 17th, presented by STI/SPFA in conjunction with the Stainless Steel World Conference & Expo in Houston.

Our pressure vessel workshop is complimentary for all conference attendees. Click here for the workshop agenda.

We’ll also have an exhibit booth at the expo, so be sure to stop by if you’re attending! For complete information about the Stainless Steel World Americas Conference & Expo, click here.

October 16th - 17th, 2012
The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel
Houston, Texas, USA

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