A regulator's review: 2013 National Tanks Conference

The 24th National Tanks Conference & Expo was held September 16-18 in Denver. STI/SPFA staff members were among the presenters to an audience comprised of regulators, tank owners and operators, testing organizations, and other people in the storage tank industry.

There was significant discussion about corrosion and compatibility issues in tanks storing newer fuels. Heather Peters, Environmental Specialist for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, graciously agreed to review the conference for Tank Talk.

Read regulator Heather Peters review here

The Annual National Tanks Conference and Exposition is produced by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Underground Storage Tanks, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, and the host state.

About newer fuels and storage tank corrosion

STI/SPFA presents the latest in our series of STEEL FACTS informational flyers.

Over the past five years, there have been increasing reports of compatibility and corrosion in underground tank systems storing newer fuels. Steel Facts No. 6, Newer fuels and storage tank corrosion, assesses the research to date and emphasizes the importance of tank maintenance, regardless of tank material.

All titles in the Steel Facts series:

- Newer fuels and storage tank corrosion
- Sustainable Steel
- 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

Dependable steel storage by Wayne Geyer, STI/SPFA

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Did you know?
The Steel Recycling Institute is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Since 1988, more than a billion tons of steel have been recycled by the North American steel industry.

Quick Links
EPA links on www.steeltank.com

- UST Program Facts
- UST and LUST Program Performance Measures
- UST Program Directory
- SPCC Rule
- SPCC Guidance
Our society depends on storage tanks for many of its comforts and conveniences. Every time we turn on the water faucet at home, clean, potable water flows out for our drinking, cooking, bathing and landscaping needs.

Every time we go to the local gas station, we pump gasoline or diesel into our vehicles for our transportation needs. These conveniences would not be possible if we did not have tanks to store these essential liquids. That fuel and water reaches us via storage tanks at every stage.

Because we need to protect the environment from exposure to hazardous liquids, fuel storage tanks must be completely leak-free. And of course, we all trust that the water delivered to our homes is clean, continuous, and uncontaminated. Steel is the material of choice for these tanks that are so vital to the nation's well-being.

Growth in STI labeled, secondary containment tanks

Storage tank regulators, code officials, owners, engineers, installers, and manufacturers -- not to mention the public -- all have a stake in preventing leaks and spills of hydrocarbons.

STI labeled tanks are built to the STI specifications, incorporate third party listings, and subject fabrication to the random STI quality inspection program.

That's why the use of STI labeled, secondary contained aboveground storage tanks continues to grow. Click here to see this growth trend over recent years.

EPA posts revised SPCC Guidance

In August 2013, EPA revised the SPCC Guidance for Regional Inspectors. This document is intended to assist regional inspectors in reviewing a facility’s implementation of the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule at 40 CFR part 112.

This SPCC Guidance is also available to owners and operators of facilities that may be subject to the requirements of the SPCC rule, and to the general public to explain how EPA intends the SPCC rule to be implemented.

The document is designed to provide a consistent national policy on several SPCC-related issues. Webinars on the revised SPCC document are also available.

Click here for EPA’s SPCC webpage
EPA and LUST Program Performance Measures

This useful EPA link provides:

- The number of active and closed tanks
- Releases reported
- Cleanups initiated and completed
- Inspections
- Facilities in compliance with UST requirements

Click here to go to OUST report page

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Tank and Petroleum Mishaps

Pennsylvania, 8/20/13--Deadly tank explosion: A diesel fuel tank explosion killed one person, who was thrown to the ground from an elevated walkway. The tank, which held 10,000 gallons of off-road diesel fuel, caught fire and exploded. The force was sufficient to send the tank across a nearby residential street, narrowly missing a house.

...See video here

Texas, 9/28/13--Explosion caused by lightning destroys tank facility: A fiberglass tank storing salt water from oil wells was hit by lightning and exploded. The blast triggered fires in the four additional containers at the facility and it is now a total loss.

...See video here

Prague, Czech Republic, 10/2/13--Underground tank explosion kills one: A nearly-empty 2,642 gallon tank exploded during maintenance work. One worker died of head injuries as a result. Part of the highway linking the northern part of the Czech Republic with Germany had to be closed following the explosion.

Click here for more Tank Mishaps

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HazCom Global Harmonization training deadline

December 1 is the deadline by which employees must be trained in aspects of OSHA's new Hazard Communication Standard, including new labeling and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements.

OSHA says that, "The Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). This update to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) will provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets."

Transition timetable (courtesy PEI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2013</td>
<td>Employees must be trained on the new GHS label and SDS forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2015</td>
<td>Chemical manufacturers and distributors must be shipping new labels and SDSs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
<td>Chemical distributors may ONLY ship containers with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
June 1, 2016

All employers must have updated their compliance programs, SDS libraries and labels, and trained all employees on newly identified hazards.

OSHA's HazCom website has training requirements for the December 1 deadline and information and documents to assist you with compliance.

Click here to go to OSHA’s HazCom page

Notice: ASME PCC-1-2013

Revisions to ASME’s Guidelines for Pressure Boundary Bolted Flange Joint Assembly have been published.

Click here to go to ASME's Standards/New Releases page.

Click here to go to ASME's Standards/New Releases page.

Engineers get their due--from Queen Elizabeth!

You’ve heard the announcements of this year’s Nobel Prize winners—but you didn't hear one for engineers.

Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain has decided to give engineers their due. ASME reports that, “The Queen Elizabeth (QE) Prize for engineering is her tip of the crown to an often-misunderstood profession that touches everything in our lives.”

Click here to read the full story

Manufacturing Institute's "M-List"--educating skilled workers

The Manufacturing Institute recently reported that fifty schools have now joined its "M-List:"

To remain competitive in the global marketplace, manufacturers require a highly skilled workforce—from the production floor to the design studio to the C-suite. The select schools on the M-List have arranged their coursework around industry standards, and they make sure students earn credentials that are in the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System. With such a trusted standard, it takes the guesswork out of hiring the welders, machinists, production workers, and other key positions that make manufacturing hum.

Are you a company interested in finding qualified workers? A student looking to build your skills for a career in manufacturing? Consider the M-List schools - America's one source for skills.

Click here for more info and schools on the M-List

US will become world's top oil producer in 2013

Steel fabricators are getting in on a booming market for petroleum tanks, pipe, and transport.
According to PIRA Energy Group, the US is expected to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest total supplier of oil this year, when natural gas liquids and biofuels are added to crude. The story, reported by Bloomberg News, says the US is projected to produce an average of 12.1 million barrels a day of liqueds in 2013, outpacing Saudi Arabia by 300,000 gallons.

As supporting evidence, North Dakota set another production record in August with an average of 911,242 barrels of oil per day. Only two years ago, the state pumped about 446,000 barrels a day.