



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Department of Public Safety ♦ Bureau of Fire

Luke Ravenstahl, Mayor

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ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK INSTALLATION PROTOCOL

All new installations of AST's containing combustible liquids, chemical liquids or solids, or any liquid/solid material classified as hazardous shall have secondary containment. Secondary containment for tanks may consist of a double-wall tank or a concrete vault. Certain AST installations may require a dike as well as secondary containment. The Zoning Board shall also be notified of an AST installation. A drawing containing exact location of tanks shall be required.

AST's subject to vehicular traffic shall be protected with physical barriers (i.e., guard posts, jersey barriers, etc.). The minimum set back requirement for an AST from a building, property line or public way depends on the tank capacity in gallons. (minimum initial distance is 5')

AST's mounted on rooftops will be considered as a tank inside a building. This type of installation shall adhere to the regulations governing AST's installed inside a building. Additionally, a written letter with a structural engineer's stamp must accompany the permit application stating that the building can support the added weight of the AST with maximum product load in the tank.

AST's that exceed the exempt amount permitted inside buildings (660 gallons) shall have fire detection and fire suppression systems in place at the AST installation site. If existing systems are in place at the AST installation site, we will require a written letter from an engineer (with engineer's stamp) that states the existing fire systems in place can suppress the additional fire load that the AST (with maximum product load) will add.

Prior to any tank being placed in-service all tanks shall be tested by one of the following methods:

Air Pressure Test – tank must be filled with air in psi range of 3 psi to a maximum of 5 psi. The tank must hold air with no pressure loss for one hour. The pressure gauge utilized to measure the test pressure shall have a maximum reading of 15 psi. (Coleman gauge is not acceptable)

Vacuum Gauge Test – if a tank is delivered with a vacuum gauge affixed, leave vacuum gauge in place. This gauge can be used instead of air pressure test.

Water Tests – tank must be filled with water and hold with no water loss for one hour.

All tests (regardless of type) must be witnessed by a member of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, Fire Prevention Division. There will be a fee for each test, pass or fail.

Tests performed will be billed at \$16.00 per each test plus \$48.00 per hour, passed or failed.

Request for an inspector to witness a test shall be made at least 48 hours in advance.

NOTE: Motor fuel dispensing facilities and repair garages shall utilize below grade vaults to install above ground tanks. An AST storing class II liquids in below grade vaults shall be limited to a maximum capacity of 15K individual size and an aggregate capacity of 48K.

Class I Flammable Liquids are prohibited in an AST, a UST Shall be utilized.