Inspection Practices for Atmospheric and Low-pressure Storage Tanks

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1 Scope

This document provides useful information and recommended practices for the maintenance and inspection of atmospheric and low-pressure storage tanks. While these maintenance and inspection guidelines may apply to other types of tanks, these practices are intended primarily for existing tanks that were constructed to one of the following four standards: API Std 12A, API Spec 12C, API Std 620, or API Std 650. 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 Std 653, which provides 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.

API Standard 12A, *Specification for Oil Storage Tanks with Riveted Shells* (withdrawn)

API Specification 12B, *Specification for Bolted Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids*