

Australian Standard[®]

**The removal and disposal of
underground petroleum storage tanks**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee ME-017, Flammable and Combustible Liquids. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 23 January 2008.

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- Agsafe
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 - Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 - Australian Industry Group
 - Australian Institute of Petroleum
 - Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation
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 - Department of Defence
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 - Fire Protection Association of Australia
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 - Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association
 - Victorian WorkCover Authority
-

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee ME-017, Flammable and Combustible Liquids, to provide requirements and recommendations for the removal and disposal of underground petroleum storage tanks. It is based on the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) CP 22—1994, *Code of Practice—The removal and disposal of underground petroleum storage tanks*, which has been withdrawn by AIP.

The purpose of this Standard is to set out procedures for dealing with underground storage tanks that have held flammable or combustible liquids and are no longer required for this purpose. Such tanks are commonly found at service stations, but the recommendations are equally applicable to underground tanks used for the same purpose at other locations.

This Standard is not intended to replace statutory regulations which take precedence over the requirements of this Standard. The relevant regulatory authority having jurisdiction may determine the extent of application of this Standard.

Individual companies or tank owners may have additional or special requirements that exceed or vary the requirements of this Standard. In such situations, such companies and owners need to be consulted.

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FOREWORD

Underground tanks that have been used for the storage of petroleum products or other flammable or combustible liquids need to be dealt with in an appropriate manner when they are no longer required or suitable for such use.

Strict procedures are necessary to avoid the potential safety and environmental hazards associated with the disposal of used tanks and tank material, and with the future use of the site.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard**The removal and disposal of underground petroleum storage tanks**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out procedures for the temporary decommissioning of tanks *in situ* and the removal, transport and off-site disposal of underground tanks that have contained flammable or combustible liquids. It also describes procedures for the abandonment of tanks *in situ* where removal is not feasible.

1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard mainly applies to service stations. However the procedures set out in this Standard are also applicable to underground storage systems in other oil industry premises and similar systems that have stored flammable or combustible liquids in other industrial situations.

The relevant regulatory authority may determine the extent of application of this Standard.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

A list of documents referred to in this Standard is given in Appendix A.

1.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

1.4.1 Cold cutting

Methods of cutting metal that do not involve a form of hot work, as defined in AS 1674.1, or equipment not approved for use in a hazardous area.

1.4.2 Contractor

The person or company charged with the responsibility of carrying out the actual work.

1.4.3 Electrically bonded

A method of controlling hazardous static electric discharges by having all conducting parts of a product transfer system electrically earthed and having a resistance not exceeding 1 megaohm.

NOTE: Detailed recommendations for control of static electricity are given in AS/NZS 1020.

1.4.4 Flammable and combustible liquids

Liquids as defined in AS 1940.

1.4.5 Gas-free

The condition of a vessel when it has been subject to a procedure such as described in AS 1674.1 and when the vapour space has a flammable gas concentration of less than 5% of the lower explosive limit (LEL) as measured with a calibrated flammable gas detector complying with the relevant part of AS/NZS 61779.

NOTE: A gas-free condition may only last for a limited time and re-testing at regular intervals is essential, especially after any change in conditions which may affect the vapour concentration.