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Inspection of storage tanks

It has become apparent that Enforcing Authorities, such as the HSE, are placing greater emphasis on the integrity of storage tanks. The Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) have issued guidelines on the integrity management of storage tanks.

The objectives of these guidance documents are to identify key issues affecting integrity management, raise the profile of atmospheric storage tank integrity assurance and to benchmark and promote good practice.

Storage tank inspections will depend on a variety of factors and can comprise of a visual examination,

detailed and comprehensive Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) or a combination of both.

Background

Storage tanks can be placed into risk categories ranging from very low to very high, based on the consequences of failure, nature of contents and the quantities held.

Such tanks may be constructed of carbon or stainless steel, high density polyethylene or glass reinforced plastic in a variety of configurations and capacities.

Certain Regulations and published guidance place duties on the operator to ensure that such tanks remain

safe in service. This will include the need for regular maintenance and inspection. Such regulations and guidance may include:

- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)
- HSG 176 'The storage of Flammable Liquids in Tanks'
- Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) (COSHH).

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Who is affected?

Any location that has the facility for liquid storage in a commercial application, including, but not limited to:

- Manufacturing
- Service
- Distribution
- Construction
- Storage

How we can help

- An initial on-site risk assessment
- Development of a documented inspection plan based on the identified risks

- Provision of inspection services, in accordance with the inspection plan, to assess and establish the condition of the tank including:
 - Provision of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) in support of the visual inspection, as detailed in the inspection plan.
 - Supply of audited and approved NDT engineers.

Undertaking the above activities will assist operators in demonstrating compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.

For further information

To discuss how we can help you with your engineering needs, please contact:

Tel: 0345 076 0146

Email: special.services@allianz.co.uk

Alternatively, visit us online at allianz.co.uk/specialservices for our full list of engineering services.