

January, 2016
BUILDING DIVISION

FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID STORAGE TANKS

This guide has been prepared to assist the applicant in applying for a permit to remove or install an underground or above ground tank. All tanks, which have no further use, or tanks that have been out of commission for more than two years, should be removed and where removal is not feasible the property owner is required to take remedial action to retrofit the tanks neutralizing them for contamination.

Removal of an Underground Storage Tank

- A demolition permit is required. If the excavation requires shoring or hoarding, a Letter of Assurance is required from a registered geotechnical engineer. In addition, if the work affects sidewalks or public thoroughfares, an approval from the Engineering Department is required. The excavation should be completed in one day with constant site supervision. If the work cannot be completed in one day, the owner must barricade the construction site for public safety.
- Also required is a letter from an Environmental Professional indicating involvement and supervision in the removal of the tank, and assurance that the Ministry of Land, Water, and Air Protection will be notified if any leakage has occurred.

Abandonment In-place of an Underground Storage Tank

As per the BC Fire Code, the removal, abandonment in-place, disposal, or temporary taking out of service of an underground storage tank and its piping system shall be in conformance with good engineering practice. The following documents are examples of good engineering practice.

- Annex C of NFPA 30 “Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code”
- API RP 1604 “Closure of Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks”
- CCME PN 1326 “Environmental Code of Practice for Above Ground and Underground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products”

Replacement of an Existing Tank or the Installation of a New Tank Underground or Above Ground

- A building permit application shall be submitted to the Building Division for installation of a new, or the replacement of an existing, underground or above ground storage tank. All installations shall comply with the requirements of the BC Fire Code.

Required Documents

- A Letter of Authorization from the owner if the owner is not the applicant.
- A site plan with the location of tank indicated relative to other buildings, property lines, service lines, etc.
- Tank Description (i.e. capacity, depth, etc.) shall be indicated on the site plan.
- Letter of Assurance from a Registered Professional if an excavation will require shoring or hoarding.
- For above ground tanks only, sealed and signed structural drawings, including foundation and anchorage details, plus Letter of Assurance.
- For underground tanks only, a letter from a Registered Professional indicating that supervision will be provided during installation.
- A letter from the Registered Professional that the installation complies with the BC Fire Code shall be submitted at the Occupancy Inspection.
- An assurance letter from a certified arborist. This letter will be needed if any trees are affected by the work zone. The letter must be signed by the owner and the certified arborist. A follow up letter will also be required once the work is completed.

Additional Information

At the completion of the installation or replacement of a tank and its piping and/or fuel dispensing system, contact the Fire Prevention Office at 604-543-6780 for a field review. It is recommended that contractors licensed to operate in the City of Surrey who are experienced in tank removal be contracted to do the work.