

**Permits for Storage Tanks
Installation, Alteration and Removal**

Issue:

The "Alberta Permit Regulation" A.R. 204/2007 came into force on April 1, 2008. The permit regulation affects the Alberta Fire Code (AFC) as it applies to storage tank systems that now require a permit to be taken out.

Fire Discipline (requirements extracted from the Alberta Permit Regulation)

Storage Tank System Permit

- 10 A permit in the fire discipline is required to install, alter or remove a storage tank system to which the Alberta Fire Code applies.

Fire Discipline Permit Holder

- 11 A *permit issuer* may issue a permit in the fire discipline to the owner of the *parcel of land* on which the storage tank system is to be installed.

A *permit issuer* means a safety codes officer or a person designated to issue permits pursuant to section 44 of the *Act*. (Safety Codes Act)

A *parcel of land* means a parcel of land as defined in section 616 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Background:

The permit regulation requires the owner to obtain a permit for any storage tank installation, alteration or removal. Storage tank systems are defined in the AFC as:

Storage tank means a vessel for *flammable liquids* or *combustible liquids* having a capacity of more than 230 L, and designed to be installed in a fixed location.

Storage tank system means a system for the storage and dispensing of *flammable liquids* and *combustible liquids* and is not limited to *storage tanks*, associated piping, vents, pumps and dispensing equipment.

The requirement to obtain a permit for the installation, alteration and removal of a storage tank system will require compliance to the approvals provisions of Division C, Subsection 2.2.3.

Code requirement: ¹

2.2.3. Approvals

2.2.3.1. Storage Tank Systems

- 1) Only individuals *approved* by the *Chief Fire Administrator* are permitted to install, remove, repair or conduct precision tests of *storage tank systems*. (See Appendix A.)

¹ All references are to the Alberta Fire Code, Division C, unless otherwise stated

- 2) No person shall install or alter any *storage tank system* referred to in this Part, unless
- required permits or approvals have been obtained from the *authority having jurisdiction*,
 - plans, drawings and specifications of the system or equipment have been examined and accepted by the *authority having jurisdiction*, and
 - the plans, drawings and specifications referred to in Clause (b) bear the stamp and seal of a professional engineer licensed to practice in Alberta.

A-2.2.3.1.(1) The powers, duties and functions of the Chief Fire Administrator in Sentence 2.2.3.1.(1) and Subsection 2.2.5. have been delegated by the Minister to the Petroleum Tank Management Association of Alberta (PTMAA) in accordance with the Storage Tank System Management Regulation (Alta. Reg. 254/2000 as amended).

Intent:

A permit is required for the installation, alteration or removal of a storage tank system. The owner of the storage tank and property is responsible to obtain the necessary permits.

Installation and Alteration Permit:

The owner is required to obtain a permit for all new storage tank installations and alterations to a system that may include

- identifying the approved person for the installation,
- having a professional engineer prepare the drawings and specifications and having them stamped and sealed, and
- having the drawings and specifications reviewed and accepted by the authority having jurisdiction.

Alteration:

This typically encompasses work to an existing storage tank system that is beyond the normal maintenance requirements needed to keep the system operating properly. The AHJ must determine what is considered upgrading to an existing system or what a new installation to an existing system is. In either case a permit is required to perform the work.

Removal Permit:

The owner is required to obtain a permit for the removal of any storage tank system that may include

- identifying the approved person for the removal,
- notifying the authority having jurisdiction of storage tank systems being removed or discontinued to be in use,
- having the removal work accepted by the authority having jurisdiction.

Obtaining Permits:

An accredited municipality would normally issue their own permits and in an un-accredited municipality the permit issuer will be the Petroleum Tank Management Association of Alberta (PTMAA) (1-866-222-8265). Please contact your local municipal authority or the PTMAA to determine who the permit issuer will be.

Special Notice:

The Alberta Permit Regulation specifically targets storage tank system installations, alterations and removals. The permit in conjunction with other provisions of the AFC requires the work to be performed by an approved person.