



GROUND-BASED OPERATION OF DELIVERY VEHICLES

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BACKGROUND

In some countries, principally those where bitumen is unloaded using ground-based pumps, delivery personnel are required to access the man-lid (also known as the 'dome') of the tanker. This operation involves the driver climbing to the top of the vehicle, creating a risk of falling from height and bitumen fumes exposure. To avoid such risks it is desirable that all operations required for safe delivery of bitumen should be carried out from ground level.

The purpose of this document is to highlight key elements of delivery vehicles that will enable ground-based operation during bitumen delivery.

It is recognised that vehicle operators still need to access the man-lid during loading. This document is not intended to address this operation, as it is assumed that in refineries, or terminals adequate fall protection is provided through the use of gantries.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

In bitumen delivery operations it is important to avoid significant over or under-pressure conditions on the tank barrel. It is therefore essential that any system to enable ground-based operation is capable of allowing air to enter the tanker at the same rate that product is being discharged. In practice, an opening on the tank roof must be correctly dimensioned in relation to the pump flow rate. The aperture must have a minimum diameter of 75mm to allow sufficient air flow in relation to the flow rate of the ground-based pump used for discharge, to prevent damage to the tank truck.

Any system installed on a delivery vehicle to permit ground-based operation must indicate when the vent valve is open or closed. The system must ensure that, when the bottom valve is open, discharge cannot commence until the vent valve is open. Similarly, the vent valve must be closed at the loading site. A full truck must not be moved with the vent valve opened.

The system control equipment must be operable in safety by the driver at any time and in the event of any safety concern, the driver can immediately terminate the delivery using an Emergency Stop. This also applies where bitumen deliveries are not made using ground-based pumps but are made under pressure from the delivery vehicle.

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