

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TANKERS AT NON TANKER BERTHS

As non tanker berths in the port of Melbourne are not equipped with fire fighting systems complying with AS 3846-2005, the additional safety requirements, as set out below, must be adhered to:

1. All vessels cargo tanks, slop tanks and the associated pipe work must be free of "low flash point" cargoes (<60°C); or comply with requirements for "Vessels Operating with Inert Gas".
2. This form must be sent to Melbourne VTS by the master prior to the arrival of the vessel at a non tanker berth.
3. The tank condition must be verified by an independent chemist, prior to, or, subject to confirmation from PoMC Health and Safety, immediately after the vessel's arrival at the berth. The verified document must be sent by the chemist to PoMC Health and Safety.
4. Tank condition certificates and/or gas free certificates must be renewed every 24 hours or immediately conditions alter. Any change of status must be immediately advised PoMC Health & Safety.

Vessels Operating without Inert Gas

5. Vessels operating without inert gas may only berth at a non tanker berth when all cargo tanks, slop tanks and associated pipe work are gas free. PoMC Health and Safety may require verification by an independent chemist.

Vessels Operating with Inert Gas

6. The vessel's inert gas system must be fully operational so as to maintain a positive inert gas pressure in tanks at all times. If work is to be carried out on the ship's inert gas system or associated sections of plant or piping which affect inert gas supply, an independent supply of inert gas is to be put into place and be fully operational prior to repair work commencing.
7. The oxygen content of the atmosphere in each cargo or slop tank must not exceed 5% by volume.
8. If a vessel's inert gas system is not operational and the independent supply of inert gas is not available, then the vessel shall be classed as a "vessel operating without inert gas" and shall follow the requirements as stated in section 5.
9. All cargo tanks, including slop tanks, containing high flash point cargo or residues (>60°C); must have the ullage space maintained with a positive inert pressure, unless authorised otherwise by the duty Health & Safety Officer.
10. All cargo tanks and associated pipe work that last carried a low flash cargo, where possible, should be washed, well drained and inerted. Unwashed cargo tanks must be well drained of liquid hydrocarbon residues and inerted.
11. Special conditions apply to slop tank(s) that contain low flash point slops/products.
 - a. Wherever possible slops should be confined to a single designated tank preferably slop tank.
 - b. Low flash slops (liquid Hydrocarbon) shall not exceed 5% of the tanks volume.
 - c. The ullage space of the slop tank must be inerted.

DECLARATION BY VESSEL'S MASTER	VERIFICATION BY CHEMIST
I as Master of the vessel, MV: Declare that this vessel complies with the requirements stated above and is operating with / without inert gas. (strike out as appropriate)	I of an independent chemist approved by the PoMC, have verified the status of the above tanks, at the date and time stated below.
Signed: Date / Time: Ship's Stamp	Signed: Date Time

GUIDELINES TO THE REQUIREMENTS

The declaration signed by the master must be sent to Melbourne VTS prior to the arrival of the vessel at a non tanker berth. The verification by the independent chemist should preferably be performed prior to the vessel's arrival, but may be done immediately after the arrival of the vessel at the berth, subject to confirmation from PoMC Health and Safety. The verified document must be sent by the chemist to PoMC Health and Safety.

The tank condition certificates / gas free certificates must be available onboard for inspection and any change in status advised immediately to PoMC Health & Safety.

The declaration by the master of the vessel relates to all items of the requirements and, in particular, the status of the inert gas system and condition of tanks on board.

The verification by the chemist relates to the following items of the requirements:

- Item 5 requires testing the atmosphere of the tanks to verify they are gas free. The term "Gas Free" is defined in the standard AS 3846-2005 as: A tank or space that has been thoroughly cleaned and ventilated in accordance with the requirements of AS/NZS 2865 or an international specification, and has been tested and certified by a competent person.
- Item 7 requires testing or verification of the atmosphere of the tanks to ascertain the oxygen content.
- Item 9 requires checking the documentation of current and previous cargoes to verify that the cargo is "high flash point". Suitable verification may include either a test certificate, or require additional sampling and testing to verify flash point. Item 9 also requires testing as per item 7.
- Item 11b requires verification of the amount of liquid hydrocarbon in the slop tank. This may be from the vessel's automatic gauging system, manual gauging and calculation or derived from sightings in a Log book or Oil record Book. The volume of liquid hydrocarbon being expressed as a percentage of the tank's capacity.
- Item 11c requires testing as per item 7.
- If an item is not as per the requirements, the chemist must notify PoMC Health and Safety.

If the declaration and/or verification indicate that a vessel does not meet the minimum requirements, the PoMC may require the vessel to be removed from the berth.

The PoMC Tanker Berths are as follows:

- Holden Dock. A common user berth.
- No.1 Maribyrnong. A common user berth.
- Gellibrand Pier. A dedicated berth, managed by ExxonMobil.

All other PoMC berths are considered non tanker berths.

If a vessel plans to present for berthing in a condition that does not meet these requirements, the PoMC may require a risk assessment for consideration with the berth hire application. Risk control measures, contained therein, that may be appropriate, include supply of the non tanker berth with portable firefighting equipment, fire service officers and imposition of a restricted area surrounding the vessel.

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