Minimum requirements for tankers at non-tanker berths

Non-tanker berths are not equipped with fire-fighting systems that comply with AS 3846-2005, therefore additional safety requirements apply:

Section	Description
1.	The Master should complete and email this form to Melbourne VTS at MelbourneVTS@ MelbourneVTS@vicports.vic.gov.au before the arrival of the vessel at a non-tanker berth.
2.	An independent chemist should verify the tank condition before the vessel arrives at the berth, or immediately after the vessel arrives at the berth. The chemist must send verification documents to Port of Melbourne Health and Safety at safety@portofmelbourne.com.
3.	All vessels' cargo tanks, slop tanks and associated pipe work, must be free of 'low-flashpoint' cargoes (less than 60°C) or comply with the requirements for *Section 6 – Vessels operating with inert gas*.
4.	Tank condition certificates and/or gas-free certificates must be renewed every 24 hours or as conditions alter.
5.	**Vessels operating without inert gas** 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. Port of Melbourne Health and Safety require verification by an independent chemist.
6.	**Vessels operating with inert gas** A vessel's inert gas system must be operational to ensure a positive inert gas pressure is maintained in the tanks at all times. If work is required on the ship's inert gas system (or associated sections of plant or piping affecting the inert gas supply) an independent gas supply must be set up and operational before work can start.
7.	Oxygen content of the atmosphere in each cargo or slop tank must be less than 5% by volume.
8.	If a vessel's inert gas system is not operational, and an independent supply of inert gas is unavailable, the vessel shall comply with the requirements outlined in *Section 5 – Vessels operating without inert gas*.
9.	Ensure all cargo tanks, including slop tanks, containing high-flashpoint cargo or residues (more than 60°C) maintain the ullage space with a positive inert pressure,
10.	Ensure all cargo tanks and associated pipe work that last carried low-flashpoint cargo are, where possible, washed, well drained and rendered inert. If the cargo tanks are unwashed, drain well of all liquid hydrocarbon residues to render the tanks inert.
11.	The following conditions apply to slop tank(s) that contain low-flashpoint slops/products: a. Wherever possible, confine slops to a single designated tank – preferably a slop tank. b. Low-flashpoint slops (liquid hydrocarbon) shall not exceed 5% of the tank's volume. c. Inert the ullage space of the slop tank.

Declaration by Master of the vessel		Verification by independent chemist	
I,		I,	
as Master of the vessel, MV:		of	
declare that this vessel complies with the requirements stated above and is operating (select):		an independent chemist have verified the status of the above tanks, at the date and time stated below.	
With inert gas			
Without inert gas		Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Time (00:00)
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Time (00:00)		
Ship stamp			

Guidelines – Master

The Master should complete this form and return it to Melbourne VTS before the vessel arrives at a non-tanker berth.

This declaration relates to all sections of the requirements and, in particular, the status of the inert gas system and condition of cargo tanks on board.

Guidelines – Independent chemist

Verification is performed by an independent chemist, preferably before the vessel's arrival at the berth, or immediately after the vessel's arrival. The chemist must send verification documents to Port of Melbourne Health and Safety and notify any non-compliance with the requirements.

Verification is related to the following requirements:

- **Section 5** requires the atmosphere of the tanks to be tested 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".

- **Section 7** requires testing or verification of the atmosphere of the tanks to determine the oxygen content.

- **Section 9** requires testing as per Section 7, and documentation checks of current and previous cargoes to verify the cargoes' flashpoint. Suitable verification may include either a test certificate or additional sampling and testing.

- **Section 11b** requires verification of the amount of liquid hydrocarbon in the slop tank – describing the volume of liquid hydrocarbon as a percentage of the tank's capacity. A reading of the liquid hydrocarbon volume may be taken from the vessel's automatic gauging system, by manual gauging and calculation, or from sightings in a Log Book or Oil Record Book.

- **Section 11c** requires testing as per Section 7.

Guidelines

The tank condition/gas free certificates must be available on board for inspection. Advise Port of Melbourne Health and Safety immediately of any change in status.

If the declaration and/or verification indicate that a vessel does not meet the minimum requirements, Port of Melbourne may remove the vessel from the berth.

The following berths at Port of Melbourne are tanker berths:

- Holden Dock – a common user berth
- No.1 Maribyrnong – a common user berth
- Gellibrand Pier – a dedicated berth, managed by Exxon Mobil.

All other Port of Melbourne berths are considered non-tanker berths.

Risk assessment

If a vessel plans to present for berthing in a condition that does not meet requirements, Port of Melbourne may request a risk assessment for consideration with the berth hire application.

Risk control measures that may be appropriate, include supplying the non-tanker berth with portable firefighting equipment, fire service officers, and imposing a restricted area around the vessel.

Port of Melbourne Health and Safety	P: +613 9683 1594 (duty officer) F: +613 9683 1570 E: safety@portofmelbourne.com
Victorian Ports Corporation (Melbourne) - Melbourne VTS	P: +613 9644 9789 F: +613 9644 9710 E: MelbourneVTS@vicports.vic.gov.au

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