

ANNUAL TANK INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Even relatively new polyethylene tanks should receive routine and careful visual inspections. These inspection guidelines should be followed at least annually to ensure the safety of personnel and the preservation of the chemical stored. The tank should be replaced if it displays stress cracking, crazing, or embrittlement.

- ┆ Empty the tank. Neutralize any chemical remaining. Thoroughly clean the exterior and interior of the tank. A dirty tank cannot be properly inspected.
- ┆ Examine the exterior and the interior of the tank for cracking, crazing and brittle appearance.
- ┆ Pay particular attention to areas around fittings and where different portions of the tank converge into one another. In other words, give special attention to “corners” where sidewall and dome meet and where sidewall and bottom meet.
- ┆ If a confined space entry is not feasible, use a bright light source to inspect the tank interior from the manway opening. An interior inspection is essential because stress cracks normally show up on the inside of a tank before appearing on the outside.
- ┆ Don’t forget to inspect areas of the tank that never actually come in contact with the chemical stored. With fume-emitting chemicals, oxidation and resulting embrittlement of the dome can occur without any actual contact with the chemical stored.
- ┆ Inspect fittings, flexible connection hoses, and gaskets for leaks and signs of general corrosion or deterioration.
- ┆ Inspect vents and fume scrubbers to ensure adequate venting for pressure and vacuum. Ensure end of scrubber piping is never submerged in more than 6-in of liquid.
- ┆ Confirm that filling of the tank from tanker trucks is not causing over pressurization and not ending with a line purge that “balloons” the tank. See “VENTING” on page 4.
- ┆ Confirm secondary containment is appropriate for chemical stored, adequate in size, and in good repair.

WARNING: Failure to follow these inspection guidelines and take necessary corrective actions can result in unintended chemical release causing serious property damage, injury, or death.

Chemical fumes may be present in the area of the manway opening.

A tank is a confined space. Do not enter tank without a confined space entry and retrieval plan.

Use lift equipment and/or fall protection to prevent fall into or away from tank.

DO NOT STAND OR WORK ON TOP OF TANK. Dome surfaces are flexible and slippery. The dome may be embrittled. A dangerous fall could occur.