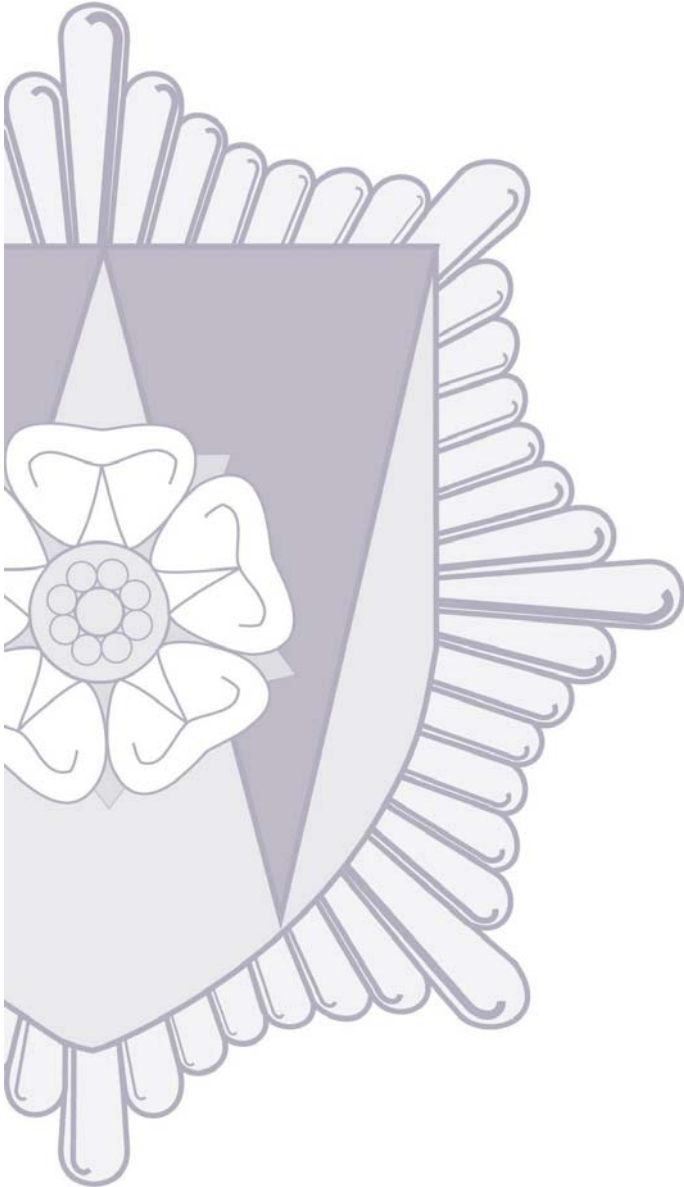


West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

Fire Safety - Information Note FS-INF014

(Previously Supplementary Information Note No 1)
Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928
Petrol Filling Stations - Dropped Lines



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PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service – Information Note FS-INF014

Introduction

The policy regarding the acceptance of 'dropped (suction) lines' is now no longer appropriate and the following procedure will replace previous guidance given in Agendum 17: 15/86 of the Notes of Petroleum Officers Meeting on 6.11.86 and Section 5.2e of Specification No 19 (rev 88).

It is occasionally necessary when carrying out pipe work alterations on existing sites to install a 'dropped line' where it is impossible or impracticable to maintain a direct fall on a suction line from pump to tank. See figure 1.

Although proposed pipe work alterations should be surveyed before written approval is sought from the Licensing Authority, it is often the case where the pipe fitter will experience difficulty in achieving the necessary fallback when the work is in progress. Either way the Petroleum Officer will have to consider whether or not a 'dropped line' is absolutely necessary. This may entail discussing with the oil company engineer or approved contractor alternative ways of adapting the pipe work. On more than one occasion it has been possible in this way to accomplish the desired modifications without the need for a drop in the line.

It has been said that a 'dropped line' is not an alternative to digging a trench across the forecourt! However, Officers should bear in mind the disruption and possible consequential damage, i.e. punctured lines, conduits and drains etc, that could result from lengthy trench work compared with simply interconnecting two sections of a pipework with a 'dropped line'.

Historically 'dropped lines' were frowned upon because they were considered to be hydraulically inefficient. This no longer applies where a modern pump is used and provided the following conditions are complied with there should be no objection to the incorporation of a 'dropped line' in a system where it is considered to be expedient under the prevailing circumstances.

i A plastic engraved notice bearing the words "BEWARE DROPPED LINE" must be fastened to the termination points of the relevant line, i.e. the angle check valve housing in the tank manhole chamber and the flexible connection in the pump housing.

ii The vertical section of dropped pipe must be provided with a removable plug to facilitate draining (by portable pump) the section of line between the pump and the drop i.e. that section which will not drain back to tank by gravity.

iii The dropped pipe must be located in a dedicated or tank manhole chamber.

iv The site plans must be annotated accordingly.

Figure 1.

