



1 Introduction

- 1.1 When a fixed tank or other fixed container which has been used for the storage of petroleum spirit, is no longer used for that purpose and is still kept on premises, it is acceptable to change a fixed petroleum-spirit tank over to the storage of other hydrocarbon products (i.e. auto-diesel, kerosene, heating or waste oil etc.) subject to the prior approval in writing from the Licensing Authority.
- 1.2 Under Section 73(1) of the Public Health Act 1961¹, the occupier / owner shall take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to prevent danger from the container. This may be achieved by the continuous and long term storage of other non-licensable petroleum products in the container.

2 Leak testing

- 2.1 The tank, or in the case of a compartmented tank, the compartments and associated pipe work should first be tested by one of the recognised methods of precision leak tests for the purpose of establishing the suitability for continued use as a storage vessel. If the tank has been in continuous use for petroleum-spirit storage and is known not to be leaking, the precaution of first testing the tank may be dispensed with.

3 Removal of product

- 3.1 If it is necessary to first remove the petroleum-spirit stored or remaining in the tank, the contractor nominated to perform the uplift operation should comply with the procedures detailed in the IP publication 'Guidelines for the Uplift of Product from Petrol Filling Stations and Customer Tanks'².
- 3.2 Alternatively the contractor may follow any other recognised uplift procedure provided a method statement is submitted to the Licensing Authority prior to the commencement of the operation.

Note: *The consent of the Licensing Authority must be obtained before petroleum spirit is uplifted from any licensed storage tank. Under normal circumstances at least 48 hrs notice must be given to the Petroleum Inspector of the intention to uplift product.*

4 Conversion to auto-diesel

- 4.1 Where the tank is to be used for the storage of auto-diesel, it will not be necessary to clean-out the tank provided the tank is completely filled (with diesel) and the pipe work feeding the dispenser(s) is flushed through to remove/dilute any residual petrol and/or vapours. To prevent the accumulation of petroleum vapour in the diesel tank, the tank should be put in use for a period of at least 12 months to ensure that diesel is being flushed through the tank, dispersing any residual petroleum. Section 15.2.5.3 of the 'Blue Guide'³ details a procedure for filling the tank and flushing the pipe work.

¹ Public Health Act 1961

² IP Publication 'Guidelines for the Uplift of Product from Petrol Filling Stations and Customer Tanks' (ISBN 0 85293 146 8)

³ Guidance for the Design, Construction, Modification and Maintenance of Filling Stations (3rd Edition)

5 Conversion to other hydrocarbon products

- 5.1 Using the tank for the storage of kerosene or waste engine oil for example, will involve cleaning the tank to ensure that any residues from the previous use does not contaminate the product to be stored. Section 15.2.5.4 of the 'Blue Guide' details a procedure for cleaning the tank.
- 5.2 Where a tank is converted to the storage of an oil for use in boilers and other heating appliances, the fill pipe adaptor should be changed to a different size from that fitted to petrol tanks
- 5.3 Where a tank is split into one or more compartments, it is not acceptable to use a compartment for the storage of heating oil if any of the other compartments are used to store petroleum-spirit.
- 5.4 In order to avoid any future confusion, all notices and labels referring to petroleum spirit must be removed. It is also recommended that the fill pipe is labelled to identify the alternative liquid stored together with its working capacity i.e. 97% of the full capacity expressed in litres
- 5.5 Contractors are expected to use safe working practices when carrying out product conversion work at petrol filling stations. Guidance regarding model work procedures and safety method statements can be found in the IP Publication 'Code of Practice for Contractors Working on Petrol Filling Stations'⁴.

⁴ IP 'Code of Practice for Contractors Working on Petrol Filling Stations' (ISBN O 85293 1948).

