

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD  
AGRICULTURAL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

(No.)

code NY 701

**DEFINITION**

Permanently located above ground structures designed to provide storage, or storage and secondary containment of on-farm fuel. The storage tanks have mounted dispensers and exposed piping.

**PURPOSE**

To minimize risk of accidental release of stored fuels, used in agricultural operations, into ground and surface waters.

**CONDITION WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On farms where fuel storage facilities are to be installed and where the combined bulk storage on the farm is less than or equal to 1100 gallons of permanent storage.

**CRITERIA**

1. Structures and siting shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
2. All storage tanks installed within the following areas will provide secondary containment:
  - up-gradient and closer than 100 feet to a well or water supply
  - closer than 100 feet to a water body, wetland, stream or watercourse
  - within an aquifer recharge area
  - less than 6 feet to the water table as identified on site, or as described in a USDA published soil survey
  - in a 100 year floodplain

**Fuel Storage Facility**

1. Storage tank will meet or exceed current industry and regulatory standards.
2. Containment systems shall be manufactured or fabricated for the purpose of containing fuel.
3. Secondary containment shall be double walled tanks or an impermeable structural barrier containing 110% capacity of the original storage. Earthen barriers shall not be used. Rain or snow shall be prevented from accumulating in the outside barrier of the containment.
4. Tanks shall be located on a clean hard surface where leaks can be detected and the surface shall extend a minimum distance of 2 feet beyond the outside dimension of the tank. A similar surface shall be beneath the vehicle filling area.
5. The fuel storage facility shall be protected from accidental contact by vehicles, tractors, and other farm equipment.
6. The bottom of fuel storage tanks not requiring secondary containment shall be at least 4 inches above the ground to facilitate detection of leaks.

**Safety**

1. Fuel storage facilities shall be properly marked with signs. A no smoking sign shall be placed near the fueling area. Fill ports shall be painted with the proper paint code; Gasoline-Red, Diesel-Yellow and Kerosene-Brown.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated as needed. To obtain a current version of this standard, contact the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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2. Develop a contingency plan to address the event of accidental spillage.

### CONSIDERATIONS

1. Evaluate the potential risk to water quality associated with agricultural fuel storage planned or present on the farm.  
Avoid areas:
  - where risk of vandalism would be high
  - closer than 25 feet to major traffic patterns
  - closer than 25 feet to any building
2. To facilitate leak detection, locate tanks on a concrete pad.
3. Contact insurance carrier regarding placement of tanks near buildings.
4. Fuel tanks should have a fuel level gauge and all piping and connections to tanks should be at the top centerline of the tanks to avoid leaks.
5. Install automatic shutoff valves on electrically operated dispensers.
6. When buried tanks need to be removed, the job should be accomplished by a qualified tank remover, according to state and federal regulations, and contaminated material disposed of according to law.

### PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing this practice shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria contained in this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Storage tanks shall be inspected monthly.  
Look for:

- leaks.
- rust or corrosion

- accumulation of trash or weeds
- proper labeling and signage
- condition of valves, fittings and hoses

Perform maintenance as needed. Records of inspection and repair will be kept.

### REFERENCES

NYS DEC 6 NYCRR Parts 612 through 614 shall apply on farms that have more than 1100 gallons of petroleum bulk storage.

Underwriters Laboratories, Standard No. 142, "Standard For Steel Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids"

American Petroleum Institute (API) Standard No. 6720, "Recommended Rules for Design and Construction of Large Welded, Low Pressure Storage Tanks"

Leaks, Spills, And Accidents Management Catalogue For Nonpoint Source Pollution And Water Quality Protection In New York State, June 1996