

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

AGRICULTURAL FUEL CONTAINMENT FACILITY

(No.)

CODE 701

DEFINITION

A permanently located structure with an impervious catch surface designed to prevent contamination of natural resources due to leakage or spillage of agricultural fuels.

PURPOSE

To prevent contamination of soil, water, and other resources by leakage or spillage from agricultural fuel storage tanks and refueling operations.

CONDITION WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice is applicable on agricultural areas where fuel storage facilities are installed and where the combined bulk storage on the farm is less than or equal to 1100 gallons of permanent storage:

1. Where primary above-ground storage and distribution of fuel for agricultural operations occur, and
2. Where spillage of fuels would pose a threat to soil, water, or other resources, and
3. Where soils and topography are suitable for construction.

CRITERIA

Laws and Regulations. Design and construction activities shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations governing activities in or along streams, pollution abatement, health, and safety. The owner or operator shall be responsible for securing all required permits or approvals and for performing in accordance with such laws and regulations.

General. The facility shall be designed to contain at least 110% of the volume of the largest tank within the facility. Structural design of the containment facility, including earthen dikes and roofed structure (if applicable) shall be in accordance with Conservation Practice Standard Code 313 – Waste Storage Facility. Other general criteria include:

- Storage tank will meet or exceed current industry and regulatory standards.
- 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.
- The bottom of the fuel storage tanks shall be at least 4 inches above the ground to facilitate detection of leaks.
- If the facility is roofed, non-combustible materials shall be used and provisions shall be made to insure free air circulation.
- If the facility is unroofed, provisions shall be made utilizing a pipe, valve, and lock to provide manually controlled drainage

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

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of rainwater from the facility. Pipes through the containment structure shall be a minimum 2 inches in diameter and installed to be water-tight utilizing water-stops, gaskets, caulk, anti-seep collars, or other appropriate measures. Pipes shall not be buried under the floor, but shall be visible throughout its length.

- All areas disturbed by construction of the facility will be vegetated according to recommendations for seeding mixtures from the local conservation district.

Location. Fuel storage shall be located as far away from other buildings as practical. Other factors include:

- No less than 100 feet from any water body, stream, wetland, or other water conveyance structure.
- Up-gradient and closer than 100 feet to a well or water supply.
- The facility shall not be located within a 100-year flood plain or in a wetland area.
- The 25 year – 24 hour storm runoff shall be diverted from entering the facility.

Safety. Fuel storage facilities shall be properly marked with signs. A no smoking sign shall be placed near the fueling area. Fuel storage facility and/or tanks shall be protected from accidental contact by vehicles, tractors, and other farm equipment. If multiple fuels are stored in the facility, each storage tank shall be marked appropriately.

CONSIDERATIONS

Fuel tanks should have a fuel level gauge and all piping and connections to the tank should be at the top of the tank to avoid leaks or inadvertent spills.

Consider a roofed cover over the containment facility to avoid the collection and possible contamination of rainwater.

Consider placement of the facility at a location where the high groundwater table is 6 feet or more from the surface.

Consider fencing the facility to minimize unauthorized use of vandalism.

Consider locating the facility at least 25 feet from buildings or as recommended by the landowners insurance carrier.

Install automatic shutoff valves on electrically operated dispensers.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Storage tanks shall be inspected monthly looking for: leaks; rust or corrosion; accumulation of trash or weeds; proper labeling and signage; and condition of valves, fittings, and hoses.

Valves for rainwater discharge from the fuel containment facility should remain locked until the water is properly inspected and any pollutants removed and properly disposed of.

If any soils near the containment facility are accidentally contaminated by any spills, they should be cleaned up immediately, removed and disposed of in an approved manner.