

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY &
FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

**LAWS AND REGULATIONS
ABOVEGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE ACT
TANKS IN UNDERGROUND AREAS**

April 2018



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<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/cupa/cupa.php>

California Health and Safety Code
Division 20, Chapter 6.67
Sections 25270-25270.13
Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA)

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Note: The full definition of a “tank in an underground area” under APSA becomes effective **July 1, 2018**. For a complete statutory language on APSA, refer to the [California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.67](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=20.&title=&part=&chapter=6.67.&article=) (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=20.&title=&part=&chapter=6.67.&article=).

**California Health and Safety Code
Division 20, Chapter 6.67**

25270.2. Definitions

(a) “Aboveground storage tank” or “storage tank” means a tank that has the capacity to store 55 gallons or more of petroleum that is substantially or totally above the surface of the ground, except that, for purposes of this chapter, “aboveground storage tank” or “storage tank” includes a tank in an underground area. “Aboveground storage tank” does not include any of the following:

(1) A pressure vessel or boiler that is subject to Part 6 (commencing with Section 7620) of Division 5 of the Labor Code.

(2) A tank containing hazardous waste or extremely hazardous waste, as respectively defined in Sections 25117 and 25115, if the Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued the person owning or operating the tank a hazardous waste facilities permit for the storage tank.

(3) An aboveground oil production tank that is subject to Section 3106 of the Public Resources Code.

(4) Oil-filled electrical equipment, including, but not limited to, transformers, circuit breakers, or capacitors, if the oil-filled electrical equipment meets either of the following conditions: (A) The equipment contains less than 10,000 gallons of dielectric fluid. (B) The equipment contains 10,000 gallons or more of dielectric fluid with PCB levels less than 50 parts per million, appropriate containment or diversionary structures or equipment are employed to prevent discharged oil from reaching a navigable water course, and the electrical equipment is visually inspected in accordance with the usual routine maintenance procedures of the owner or operator.

(5) A tank regulated as an underground storage tank under Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 25280) of this division and Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 2610) of Division 3 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations and that does not meet the definition of a tank in an underground area.

(7) A transportation-related tank facility, subject to the authority and control of the United States Department of Transportation, as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as set forth in Appendix A to Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(8) A tank or tank facility located on and operated by a farm that is exempt from the federal spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule requirements pursuant to Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) “Board” means the State Water Resources Control Board.

(c) (1) “Certified Unified Program Agency” or “CUPA” means the agency certified by the Secretary for Environmental Protection to implement the unified program specified in Chapter 6.11 (commencing with Section 25404) within a jurisdiction.

(2) “Participating Agency” or “PA” means an agency that has a written agreement with the CUPA pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 25404.3, and is approved by the secretary, to implement and enforce the unified program element specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404, in accordance with Sections 25404.1 and 25404.2.

(3) (A) “Unified Program Agency” or “UPA” means the CUPA, or its participating agencies to the extent that each PA has been designated by the CUPA, pursuant to a written agreement, to implement and enforce the unified program element specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 25404. The UPAs have the responsibility and authority, to the extent provided by this chapter and Sections 25404.1 to 25404.2, inclusive, to implement and enforce the requirements of this chapter. (B) After a CUPA has been certified by the secretary, the unified program agency shall be the only agency authorized to enforce the requirements of this chapter. (C) This paragraph does not limit the authority or responsibility granted to the office, the board, and the regional boards by this chapter.

(d) “Office” means the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

(e) “Operator” means the person responsible for the overall operation of a tank facility.

(f) “Owner” means the person who owns the tank facility or part of the tank facility.

(g) “Person” means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation, including a government corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or association. “Person” also includes any city, county, district, the University of California, the California State University, the state, any department or agency thereof, and the United States, to the extent authorized by federal law.

(h) “Petroleum” means crude oil, or a fraction thereof, that is liquid at 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute pressure.

(i) “Regional board” means a California regional water quality control board.

(j) “Storage” or “store” means the containment, handling, or treatment of petroleum, for a period of time, including on a temporary basis.

(k) “Secretary” means the Secretary for Environmental Protection.

(l) “Storage” or “store” means the containment, handling, or treatment of petroleum, for a period of time, including on a temporary basis.

(m) “Storage capacity” means the aggregate capacity of all aboveground storage tanks at a tank facility.

(n) “Tank facility” means one or more aboveground storage tanks, including any piping that is integral to the tanks, that contain petroleum and that are used by an owner or operator at a single location or site. For purposes of this chapter, a pipe is integrally related to an aboveground storage tank if the pipe is connected to the tank and meets any of the following:

(1) The pipe is within the dike or containment area.

(2) The pipe is between the containment area and the first flange or valve outside the containment area.

(3) The pipe is connected to the first flange or valve on the exterior of the tank, if state or federal law does not require a containment area.

(4) The pipe is connected to a tank in an underground area.

(o) (1) “**Tank in an underground area**” means a storage tank to which all of the following apply:

(A) The storage tank is located in a structure that is at least 10 percent below the ground surface, including, but not limited to, a basement, cellar, shaft, pit, or vault.

(B) The structure in which the storage tank is located, at a minimum, provides for secondary containment of the contents of the tank, piping, and ancillary equipment, until cleanup occurs. A shop-fabricated double-walled storage tank with a mechanical or electronic device used to detect leaks in the interstitial space meets the requirement for secondary containment of the contents of the tank.

(C) The storage tank meets one or more of the following conditions:

(i) The storage tank contains petroleum to be used or previously used as a lubricant or coolant in a motor engine or transmission, oil-filled operational equipment, or oil-filled manufacturing equipment, is situated on or above the surface of the floor, and the structure in which the tank is located provides enough space for direct viewing of the exterior of the tank except for the part of the tank in contact with the surface of the floor.

(ii) The storage tank only contains petroleum that is determined to be a hazardous waste, complies with the hazardous waste tank standards pursuant to Article 10 (commencing with Section 66265.190) of Chapter 15 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations as it may be amended, and the tank facility has been issued a unified program facility permit pursuant to Section 25404.2 for generation, treatment, accumulation, or storage of hazardous waste.

(iii) The storage tank contains petroleum and is used solely in connection with a fire pump or an emergency system, legally required standby system, or optional standby system as defined in the most recent version of the California Electrical Code (Section 700.2 of Article 700, Section 701.2 of Article 701, and Section 702.2 of Article 702, of Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations), is situated on or above the surface of the floor, and the structure in which the tank is located provides enough space for direct viewing of the exterior of the tank except for the part of the tank in contact with the surface of the floor.

(iv) The storage tank does not meet the conditions in clauses (i), (ii), or (iii), but meets all of the following conditions:

(I) It contains petroleum.

(II) It is situated on or above the surface of the floor.

(III) The structure in which the tank is located provides enough space for direct viewing of the exterior of the tank, except for the part of the tank in contact with the surface of the floor, and all piping connected to the tank, including any portion of a vent line, vapor recovery line, or fill pipe that is beneath the surface of the ground, and all ancillary equipment, can either be visually inspected by direct viewing or has both secondary containment and leak detection that meet the requirements of the regulations adopted by the office pursuant to Section 25270.4.1.

(2) For a shop-fabricated double-walled storage tank, direct viewing of the exterior of the tank is not required under paragraph (1) if inspections of the interstitial space are performed or if it has a mechanical or electronic device that will detect leaks in the interstitial space.

(3) (A) A storage tank in an underground area is not subject to Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 25280) if the storage tank meets the definition of a tank in an underground area, as provided in paragraph (1) and, except as specified in subparagraph (B), the regulations that apply to all new and existing tanks in underground areas and buried piping connected to tanks in underground areas have been adopted by the office pursuant to Section 25270.4.1.

(B) A storage tank meeting the description of clause (i) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) shall continue to be subject to this chapter, and excluded from the definition of an underground storage tank in Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 25280), before and after the date the regulations specific to tanks in underground areas have been adopted by the office.

(p) “Viewing” means visual inspection, and “direct viewing” means, in regard to a storage tank, direct visual inspection of the exterior of the tank, except for the part of the tank in contact with the surface of the floor, and, where applicable, the entire length of all piping and ancillary equipment, including all exterior surfaces, by a person or through the use of visual aids, including, but not limited to, mirrors, cameras, or video equipment.

25270.3. Applicability

A tank facility is subject to this chapter if any of the following apply:

(a) The tank facility is subject to the oil pollution prevention regulations specified in Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) The tank facility has a storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or more of petroleum.

(c) The tank facility has a storage capacity of less than 1,320 gallons of petroleum and has one or more **tanks in an underground area** meeting the conditions specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (o) of Section 25270.2. If this subdivision is applicable, only tanks meeting the conditions specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (o) of Section 25270.2 shall be included as storage tanks and subject to this chapter.

25270.4.5. Prepare and Implement an SPCC Plan

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), each owner or operator of a storage tank at a tank facility subject to this chapter shall prepare a spill prevention control and countermeasure plan applying good engineering practices to prevent petroleum releases using the same format required by Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including owners and operators of tank facilities not subject to the general provisions in Section 112.1 of those regulations. Each owner or operator specified in this subdivision shall conduct periodic inspections of the storage tank to ensure compliance with Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. In implementing the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan, each owner or operator specified in this subdivision shall fully comply with the latest version of the regulations contained in Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1) of Subchapter D of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) A tank facility located on and operated by a farm, nursery, logging site, or construction site is not subject to subdivision (a) if no storage tank at the location exceeds 20,000 gallons and the cumulative storage capacity of the tank facility does not exceed 100,000 gallons. Unless excluded from the definition of an “aboveground storage tank” in Section 25270.2, the owner or operator of a tank facility exempt pursuant to this subdivision shall take the following actions:

(1) Conduct a daily visual inspection of any storage tank storing petroleum. For purposes of this section, “daily” means every day that contents are added to or withdrawn from the tank, but no less than five days per week. The number of days may be reduced by the number of state or federal holidays that occur during the week if there is no addition to, or withdrawal from, the tank on the holiday. The unified program agency may reduce the frequency of inspections to not less than once every three days at a tank facility that is exempt pursuant to this section if the tank facility is not staffed on a regular basis, provided that the inspection is performed every day the facility is staffed.

(2) Allow the UPA to conduct a periodic inspection of the tank facility.

(3) If the UPA determines installation of secondary containment is necessary for the protection of the waters of the state, install a secondary means of containment for each tank or group of tanks where the secondary containment will, at a minimum, contain the entire contents of the largest tank protected by the secondary containment plus precipitation.

25270.6. Annual Tank Facility Statement and Fees

(a) (1) On or before January 1, annually, each owner or operator of a tank facility subject to this chapter shall file with the statewide information management system, a tank facility statement that shall identify the name and address of the tank facility, a contact person for the tank facility, the total storage capacity of the tank facility, and the location and contents of each petroleum storage tank that exceeds 10,000 gallons in storage capacity. A copy of a statement submitted previously pursuant to this section may be submitted in lieu of a new tank facility statement if no new or used storage tanks have been added to the facility or if no significant modifications have been made. For purposes of this section, a significant modification includes, but is not limited to, altering existing storage tanks or changing spill prevention or containment methods.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an owner or operator of a tank facility that submits a business plan, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 25501, to the statewide information management system and that complies with Sections 25503, 25505, 25505.1, 25507, 25507.2, 25508, 25508.1, and 25508.2, satisfies the requirement in paragraph (1) to file a tank facility statement.

(b) Each owner or operator of a tank facility who is subject to the requirements of subdivision (a) shall annually pay a fee to the UPA, on or before a date specified by the UPA. The governing body of the UPA shall establish a fee, as part of the single fee system implemented pursuant to Section 25404.5, at a level sufficient to pay the necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the UPA in administering this chapter, including, but not limited to, inspections, enforcement, and administrative costs. The UPA shall also implement the fee accountability program established pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 25404.5 and the regulations adopted to implement that program.

25270.8. Release Reporting

Each owner or operator of a tank facility shall immediately, upon discovery, notify the Office of Emergency Services and the UPA using the appropriate 24-hour emergency number or the 911 number, as established by the UPA, or by the governing body of the UPA, of the occurrence of a spill or other release of one barrel (42 gallons) or more of petroleum that is required to be reported pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 13272 of the Water Code.

25270.12. Civil Penalty

(a) Any owner or operator of a tank facility who fails to prepare a spill prevention control and countermeasure plan in compliance with subdivision (a) of Section 25270.4.5, to file a tank facility statement pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 25270.6, to submit the fee required by subdivision (b) of Section 25270.6, or to report spills as required by Section 25270.8, or who otherwise fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day on which the violation continues. If the owner or operator commits a second or subsequent violation, a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day on which the violation continues may be imposed.

(b) (1) The civil penalties provided by this section may be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought by the city attorney or district attorney on behalf of the UPA.

(2) Fifty percent of all penalties assessed and recovered in a civil action brought on behalf of a UPA pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited into a unified program account established by the UPA for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the unified program and 50 percent shall be paid to the office of the city attorney or district attorney, whoever brought that action.

(c) (1) The civil penalties provided in this section may be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General on behalf of the office, the board, or a regional board, or on behalf of the people of the State of California.

(2) All penalties assessed and recovered in a civil action brought pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund created pursuant to Section 13260 of the Water Code. These moneys shall be separately accounted for, and shall be expended by the board, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to assist regional boards and other public agencies with authority to clean up waste or abate the effects of the waste, in cleaning up or abating the effects of the waste on waters of the state, or for the same purposes for which the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account may be expended pursuant to Section 13443 of the Water Code.

(d) The city attorney, district attorney, or the Attorney General may seek to enjoin, in any court of competent jurisdiction, any person believed to be in violation of this chapter.

(e) The penalties specified in this section are in addition to any other penalties provided by law.

25270.12.1. Administrative Penalty

(a) An owner or operator of a tank facility who fails to prepare a spill prevention control and countermeasure plan in compliance with subdivision (a) of Section 25270.4.5, to file a tank facility statement pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 25270.6, to submit the fee required by subdivision (b) of Section 25270.6, or to report spills as required by Section 25270.8, or who otherwise fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter is liable to the UPA for an administrative penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each day on which the violation continues. If the owner or operator commits a second or subsequent violation, an administrative penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day on which the violation continues may be imposed.

(b) The administrative penalties assessed by a UPA shall be deposited into a unified program account established by the UPA for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the unified program.

(c) When a UPA issues an enforcement order or assesses an administrative penalty, or both, for a violation of this chapter, the administering agency shall utilize the administrative enforcement procedures specified in Sections 25404.1.1 and 25404.1.2.

(d) The administrative penalties specified in this section are in addition to any other penalties provided by law, except for a violation for which a civil penalty under Section 25270.12 has already been imposed for the same violation.

25270.12.5. Misdemeanor and Other Applicable Criminal or Civil Penalties

(a) A person who knowingly violates Section 25270.4.5, 25270.6, or 25270.8 after reasonable notice of the violation is, upon conviction, guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) This section does not preempt any other applicable criminal or civil penalties.

25270.13. Local Storage Tank Ordinance; State and Regional Water Boards' Authority under Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act

(a) This chapter does not preempt local storage tank ordinances, in effect as of August 16, 1989, that meet or exceed the standards prescribed by this chapter.

(b) This chapter does not preempt the authority granted to the board and the regional boards under the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Water Code).

California Health and Safety Code
Division 20, Chapter 6.7
Sections 25280 – 25299.8
Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances

25281 Definitions – Underground Storage Tank

Note: For the complete statutory language, refer to the [California Health and Safety Code, Division 20, Chapter 6.7](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=20.&title=&part=&chapter=6.7.&article=) (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=20.&title=&part=&chapter=6.7.&article=).

**California Health and Safety Code
Division 20, Chapter 6.7**

25281. Definitions – Underground Storage Tank

For purposes of this chapter and unless otherwise expressly provided, the following definitions apply:

(y) (1) “Underground storage tank” means any one or combination of tanks, including pipes connected thereto, that is used for the storage of hazardous substances and that is substantially or totally beneath the surface of the ground. “Underground storage tank” does not include any of the following:

(A) A tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that is located on a farm and that stores motor vehicle fuel used primarily for agricultural purposes and not for resale.

(B) A tank that is located on a farm or at the residence of a person, that has a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less, and that stores home heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where stored.

(C) Structures, such as sumps, separators, storm drains, catch basins, oil field gathering lines, refinery pipelines, lagoons, evaporation ponds, well cellars, separation sumps, and lined and unlined pits, sumps, and lagoons. A sump that is a part of a monitoring system required under Section 25290.1, 25290.2, 25291, or 25292 and sumps or other structures defined as underground storage tanks under the federal act are not exempted by this subparagraph.

(D) A tank holding hydraulic fluid for a closed loop mechanical system that uses compressed air or hydraulic fluid to operate lifts, elevators, and other similar devices.

(E) A **tank in an underground area**, as defined in Section 25270.2, and associated piping, that is subject to Chapter 6.67 (commencing with Section 25270).

(2) Structures identified in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (1) may be regulated by the board and any regional board pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Water Code) to ensure that they do not pose a threat to water quality.

**California Code of Regulations
Title 24, Part 9
California Fire Code
Chapter 2 – Definitions**

202 General Definitions – Tank in an Underground Area

Note: California Fire Code requirements specific to tanks in underground areas become effective **July 1, 2018**. For a complete language of the California Fire Code, visit the [California Building Standards Commission website \(http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx\)](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx) or the [International Code Council public access website \(https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/CA\)](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/CA). Refer to the 2016 edition and click on Part 9 – California Fire Code. Contact the authority having jurisdiction (such as fire code official) for additional and/or more stringent requirements.

**California Code of Regulations
Title 24, Part 9
California Fire Code
Chapter 2 – Definitions**

202. General Definitions - Tank in an Underground Area

A tank located in a structure that is at least 10 percent below the ground surface, including, but not limited to, a basement, cellar, shaft, pit, or vault.

Note: A tank in an underground area shall have the same meaning as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25270.2(o)(1) for the applications specified in Sections 2306.6.2.7, 5703.4.1, and 5703.6.2.2 of this code.

Exceptions:

1. A pressure vessel or boiler that is subject to Labor Code, Division 5, Part 6 (commencing with Section 7620).
2. A tank containing hazardous waste or extremely hazardous waste, as respectively defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 25117 and 25115, if the Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued the person owning or operating the tank a hazardous waste facilities permit for the tank.
3. An aboveground oil production tank that is subject to Public Resources Code Section 3106.
4. Oil-filled electrical equipment, including but not limited to transformers, circuit breakers, or capacitors, if the oil-filled electrical equipment meets either of the following conditions:
 - 4.1 The equipment contains less than 10,000 gallons of dielectric fluid.
 - 4.2 The equipment contains 10,000 gallons or more of dielectric fluid with polychlorinated biphenyl levels less than 50 parts per million, appropriate containment or diversionary structures or equipment are employed to prevent discharged oil from reaching a navigable water course, and the electrical equipment is visually inspected in accordance with the usual routine maintenance procedures of the owner or operator.
5. A tank regulated as an underground storage tank under Health and Safety Code Division 20, Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 25280) and the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 2610) and that does not meet the definition of a tank in an underground area.
6. A transportation-related tank facility, subject to the authority and control of the United States Department of Transportation, as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Chapter I, Subchapter D, Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1).
7. A tank or tank facility located on and operated by a farm that is exempt from the federal spill, prevention, control, and countermeasure rule requirements pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Chapter I, Subchapter D, Part 112 (commencing with Section 112.1).

California Code of Regulations
Title 24, Part 9
California Fire Code
Chapter 23 – Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages

2306.6.2 Piping, Valves, Fittings and Ancillary Equipment for Above-ground Tanks for Class I, II, and III Liquids

2306.6.2.7 Piping for Tanks in Underground Areas

Note: The abovementioned sections are specific to tanks in underground areas and do not include other applicable fire code requirements. California Fire Code requirements specific to tanks in underground areas become effective **July 1, 2018**. For a complete language of the California Fire Code, visit the [California Building Standards Commission website \(http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx\)](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx) or the [International Code Council public access website \(https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/CA\)](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/CA). Refer to the 2016 edition and click on Part 9 – California Fire Code. Contact the authority having jurisdiction (such as fire code official) for additional and/or more stringent requirements.

**California Code of Regulations
Title 24, Part 9
California Fire Code
Chapter 23 – Motor Fuel-Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages**

2306.6.2. Piping, Valves, Fittings and Ancillary Equipment for Above-ground Tanks for Class I, II and III Liquids

Piping, valves, fittings and ancillary equipment for above-ground tanks storing Class I, II and III liquids shall comply with Sections 2306.6.2.1 through 2306.6.2.7.

2306.6.2.7. Piping for Tanks in Underground Areas

Piping systems connected to a tank in an underground area shall also comply with Section 5703.6.2.2.

California Code of Regulations
Title 24, Part 9
California Fire Code
Chapter 57 – Flammable and Combustible Liquids

- 5703.4.1 Spill Control and Secondary Containment for Tanks in Underground Areas
- 5703.6.2 Design and Fabrication of Piping Systems and Components
 - 5703.6.2.2 Below-grade or Underground Piping Systems Connected to a Tank in an Underground Area
- 5704.2.7.4 Emergency Venting

Note: The abovementioned sections are specific to tanks in underground areas and do not include other applicable fire code requirements. California Fire Code requirements specific to tanks in underground areas become effective **July 1, 2018**. For a complete language of the California Fire Code, visit the [California Building Standards Commission website \(http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx\)](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx) or the [International Code Council public access website \(https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/CA\)](https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/CA). Refer to the 2016 edition and click on Part 9 – California Fire Code. Contact the authority having jurisdiction (such as fire code official) for additional and/or more stringent requirements.

**California Code of Regulations
Title 24, Part 9
California Fire Code
Chapter 57 – Flammable and Combustible Liquids**

5703.4.1. Spill Control and Secondary Containment for Tanks in Underground Areas

Tanks in underground areas and associated piping systems shall be provided with spill control and secondary containment that are designed and constructed as outlined in Section 5004.2, except as modified by Section 5703.6.2.2.

5703.6.2. Design and Fabrication of Piping Systems and Components

Piping system components shall be designed and fabricated in accordance with the applicable standard listed in Table 5703.6.2 and Chapter 27 of NFPA 30, except as modified by Sections 5703.6.2.1 and 5703.6.2.2.

**TABLE 5703.6.2
PIPING STANDARDS**

PIPING USE	STANDARD
Power Piping	ASME B31.1
Process Piping	ASME B31.3
Pipeline Transportation Systems for Liquid Hydrocarbons and Other Liquids	ASME B31.4
Building Services Piping	ASME B31.9

5703.6.2.2. Below-grade or Underground Piping Systems Connected to a Tank in an Underground Area

Below-grade or underground piping systems that are connected to a tank in an underground area shall have secondary containment. The building, room or area in which the flammable or combustible liquid is stored or located may be used as secondary containment if it meets the containment and drainage methods as described in Section 5004.2.2.1.

All portions of below-grade and underground piping systems shall be monitored for leaks by one of the following methods:

1. A listed or approved leak detection system that either activates an audible and visual alarm or stops the flow of product when a leak is detected.
2. Direct visual inspection conducted monthly by designated personnel.
3. Indirect visual inspection conducted monthly through the use of, but not limited to, mirrors, cameras or video equipment.
4. If the above methods cannot be met, an alternative means shall be provided in accordance with Section 1.11.2.4.

Exceptions: *[The provisions of Section 5703.6.2.2 shall not apply to the following piping systems:]*

1. Piping systems connected to a tank in an underground area that is used solely in connection with a fire pump or emergency system, legally required standby system, or optional standby system as specified in Health and Safety Code Section 25270.2(o)(1)(C)(iii).
2. Piping systems connected to a tank in an underground area that contains petroleum to be used or previously used as a lubricant or coolant in a motor engine or transmission or oil-filled operational equipment or oil-filled manufacturing equipment, as described in Health and Safety Code Section 25270.2(o)(1)(C)(i).
3. Piping systems connected to a petroleum hazardous waste tank in an underground area that complies with the hazardous waste tank standards pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 15, Article 10 (commencing with Section 66265.190), and the facility has been issued a unified program facility permit pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 25404.2 for generation, treatment, accumulation, or storage of hazardous waste, as described in Health and Safety Code Section 25270.2(o)(1)(C)(ii).

5704.2.7.4. Emergency venting

Stationary, aboveground tanks shall be equipped with additional venting that will relieve excessive internal pressure caused by exposure to fires. Emergency vents for Class I, II and IIIA liquids shall not discharge inside buildings. The venting shall be installed and maintained in accordance with Section 22.7 of NFPA 30, except as modified by Section 5703.6.2.2.

Exceptions:

1. Tanks larger than 12,000 gallons [45,420 L] in capacity storing Class IIIB liquids that are not within the diked area or the drainage path of Class I or II liquids do not require emergency relief venting.
2. Emergency vents on protected above-ground tanks complying with UL 2085 containing Class II or IIIA liquids are allowed to discharge inside the building.