



Application of Cathodic Protection to Control External Corrosion of Carbon Steel On-Grade Storage Tank Bottoms

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this standard practice is to present practices for application of CP to control external corrosion of carbon steel on-grade storage tank bottoms that are in contact with an electrolyte. Practices for application of both galvanic anode CP systems and impressed current CP systems are included. Design criteria for the upgrade of existing tanks as well as for newly constructed tanks are included. This standard is maintained by Task Group 013.

KEYWORDS

pipelines, tanks, and underground systems, cathodic protection, TG 013, metals, storage tanks

Foreword

In NACE standards, the terms shall, must, should, and may are used in accordance with the definitions of these terms in the NACE Publications Style Manual. The terms shall and must are used to state a requirement, and are considered mandatory. The term should is used to state something good and is recommended, but is not considered mandatory. The term may is used to state something considered optional.

It is important to maintain the integrity of carbon steel on-grade storage tanks for both economic and environmental reasons. The proper design, installation, and maintenance of cathodic protection (CP) systems can help maintain the integrity and increase the useful service life of carbon steel on-grade storage tanks.

The purpose of this standard practice is to present practices for application of CP to control external corrosion of carbon steel on-grade storage tank bottoms that are in contact with an electrolyte. Practices for application of both galvanic anode CP systems and impressed current CP systems are included. Design criteria for the upgrade of existing tanks as well as for newly constructed tanks are included. This standard is intended for use by personnel planning to install a CP system on new carbon steel on-grade storage tanks, upgrade the CP system on existing carbon steel on-grade storage tanks, or install a new CP system on existing carbon steel on-grade storage tanks.

This NACE standard was originally prepared by Task Group (TG) T-10A-20, a component of NACE Unit Committee T-10A, "Cathodic Protection," and issued in 1993. It was revised by TG 013, "Tanks, Aboveground: External Cathodic Protection of On-Grade Metallic Storage Tank Bottoms," in 2001 and 2015. TG 013 is administered by Specific Technology Group (STG) 35, "Pipelines, Tanks, and Well Casings," and sponsored by STG 05, "Cathodic/Anodic Protection." This standard is issued by NACE International under the auspices of STG 35.

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Application of Cathodic Protection to Control External Corrosion of Carbon Steel On-Grade Storage Tank Bottoms

1.	General	4
2.	Definitions	4
3.	Preliminary Evaluation and Determination of the Need for Cathodic Protection.....	8
4.	Criteria for Cathodic Protection	12
5.	General Considerations for Cathodic Protection Design.....	14
6.	Design Considerations for Impressed Current Cathodic Protection.....	18
7.	Design Considerations for Galvanic Anode Cathodic Protection	19
8.	Cathodic Protection System Design Considerations for Tanks with Release-Prevention Barriers or Replacement Bottoms.....	20
9.	Installation Practices and Considerations	22
10.	Energizing and Testing.....	24
11.	Operation and Maintenance of Cathodic Protection Systems.....	26
12.	Recordkeeping	28
	References.....	29
	Bibliography	29

Figures

Figure 1: Soil Resistivity Testing (Four-Pin Method). NOTE: a = Depth of interest for the soil resistivity measurement.....	10
Figure 2: Temporary Anode Bed for Current Requirement Testing	11
Figure 3: Stray-Current Corrosion.....	11
Table 1: CP System Characteristics.....	15
Figure 4: Tank CP System with Vertically Drilled Anode Bed.....	18
Figure 5: Tank CP System with Angle-Drilled Anode Bed.....	18
Figure 6: Tank CP System with Deep Anode Bed.....	18
Figure 7: Tank CP System with Horizontally Installed Anode Bed	19
Figure 8: Typical CP System (Impressed Current or Galvanic Anode) Layout for Tanks with a Release-Prevention Barrier and/or a Replacement Bottom	21
Figure 9: Typical Galvanic (Ribbon) Anode CP System Design for a Double-Bottom Tank	21
Figure 10: Typical Impressed Current CP System Design for a New Tank or Double-Bottom Tank.....	21
Figure 11: Perforated Pipe for Reference Electrode Access Installed Under an On-Grade Storage Tank Bottom.....	23

Section 1: General

- 1.1 This standard presents practices for application of CP to control external corrosion of carbon steel on-grade storage tank bottoms. Practices for the design, installation, and maintenance of the CP systems are included.
- 1.2 This standard is applicable to welded, bolted, and riveted carbon steel on-grade storage tanks that are either field- or shop-fabricated.
- 1.3 CP cannot control external corrosion of carbon steel on-grade storage tank bottom surfaces that are not in contact with an electrolyte.
- 1.4 CP may be used alone or in conjunction with protective coatings to control external corrosion of carbon steel on-grade storage tank bottoms.
- 1.5 All CP systems should be installed with the intent of achieving uninterrupted, safe operations. When CP is applied, the CP system should be operated continuously to maintain polarization.
- 1.6 The criteria for CP are based on current industry practices.
- 1.7 External corrosion control of the tank bottom must be a consideration during the design of a carbon steel on-grade storage tank.

Section 2: Definitions

Amphoteric Metal: A metal that is susceptible to corrosion in both acidic and alkaline environments.

Anode: The electrode of an electrochemical cell at which oxidation occurs. (Electrons flow away from the anode in the external circuit. It is usually the electrode where corrosion occurs and metal ions enter solution.)

Anode Bed: One or more anodes installed below the earth's surface for the purpose of supplying cathodic protection current. For the purposes of this standard, an anode bed is defined as a single anode or group of anodes installed in the electrolyte for the purposes of discharging direct current to the protected structure.

Backfill: Material placed in a hole to fill the space around the anodes, vent pipe, and buried components of a cathodic protection system.

Cable: One conductor or multiple conductors insulated from one another.

Cathode: The electrode of an electrochemical cell at which reduction is the principal reaction. (Electrons flow toward the cathode in the external circuit.)

Cathodic Disbondment: The destruction of adhesion between a coating and the coated surface caused by products of a cathodic reaction.

Cathodic Polarization: (1) The change of electrode potential caused by a cathodic current flowing across the electrode/electrolyte interface. (2) a forced active (negative) shift in electrode potential. [See *Polarization*.]

Cathodic Protection (CP): A technique to reduce the corrosion rate of a metal surface by making that surface the cathode of an electrochemical cell.

Cell: See *Electrochemical Cell*.