

Formal Interpretation

NFPA 30

Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

2012 Edition

Reference: 1.1, Scope

F.I. 84-4

Background: Tank trailers and semi-trailers are loaded with flammable or combustible liquid and moved to a storage yard. There, the tank vehicles may be kept for days, weeks, or months before being shipped to another location or being moved to another part of the same plant site. Some of the tank vehicles are not road-worthy.

Question: Do such tank vehicles, used for the temporary storage of flammable and combustible liquids, need to meet the requirements of NFPA 30 for drainage, impoundment, separation distances, etc.?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1984

Reference: 1-1

Date: April 1987

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Reference: 1.1.1, 1.1.2(1)

F.I. 93-1

Question: Since the term “solid” is not defined by NFPA 30, is it the intent of Subsections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2(1) of NFPA 30 that a combustible material, having a melting point at or above 100°F, be outside the scope of NFPA 30 and exempt from NFPA 30’s requirements?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1993

Reference: 1-1.1, 1-1.3, 5-4.1.1

Issue Date: March 7, 1995

Effective Date: March 27, 1995

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Reference: 3.3.6

F.I. 81-1

Question: Is it the intent of NFPA 30 that Fuel Oil #6 be considered a boil-over liquid, as per the definition of boil-over, viz., crude oil (or certain other liquids) and as per the applicability of Table 22.4.1.4 of NFPA 30 governing boil-over liquids?

Answer: No.

Issue Edition: 1981

Reference: 1-2

Date: April 1981

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Reference: Table 7.3.3

F. I. No.: 30-03-1

Background: In Table 7.3.3, the electrical area classification for “Office and rest rooms”, “Garages for other than tank vehicles”, and “Indoor warehousing where there is no flammable liquid transfer” is listed as “Ordinary”, i.e., no area classification applies. However, each of these three entries includes a qualifying statement that reads “If there is any opening to these rooms within the extent of an indoor classified location, the room shall be classified the same as if the wall, curb, or partition did not exist”

Question: Is it the intent of the qualifying statement to require that the classified area extend through the opening(s) only to the distance specified by Table 7.3.3 for the specific source(s) that requires area classification?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 2003

Reference: Table 8.2.2

Issue Date: May 8, 2006

Effective Date: May 28, 2006

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Reference: Section 9.4

F.I. 90-2

Background: An intermediate bulk container (IBC), that is constructed of a blow-molded plastic bottle, of 61 to 660 gallons capacity, that is structurally supported by a metal overpack and is attached to a pallet. The plastic overpack provides primary liquid containment. The sheet metal overpack provides structural rigidity and impact protection, but is not liquidtight.

Question: Does a container such as described meet the intent of the phrase “approved metal portable tank” as cited in Section 9.4 of NFPA 30?

Answer: No.

Issue Edition: 1990

Reference: 4-2

Issue Date: January 22, 1991

Effective Date: February 11, 1991

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Reference: 22.4.2

E.I. No.: 30-08-01

Question No. 1: Does the term “sum of adjacent tank diameters” refer to the diameter of one tank plus the diameter of a single adjacent tank?

Answer: Yes.

Question No. 2: Where there are more than two tanks adjacent to each other, is the “sum of adjacent tank diameters” determined for each pair of tanks, as opposed to adding the diameters of all tanks present?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 2008

Reference: 22.4.2

Issue Date: December 3, 2007

Effective Date: December 23, 2007

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Reference: Chapter 24

F.I. 90-1

Background: Hydraulic elevator systems commonly use low-pressure tanks as accumulator reservoirs to contain the hydraulic oil that is pumped into and out of the hydraulic cylinder. The question has arisen whether these reservoirs are subject to the provisions of NFPA 30, specifically the provisions of Chapter 24. Specific provisions for such accumulator tanks are not mentioned in any other code, including the ANSI standards that deal specifically with elevator systems.

Question: Are the hydraulic accumulator reservoirs of a hydraulic elevator system subject to the provisions of NFPA 30, Chapter 24, Storage Tank Buildings?

Answer: No.

Issue Edition: 1990

Reference: 2-5

Issue Date: January 22, 1991

Effective Date: February 11, 1991

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Reference: 27.6.6

F.I. N/A

Question: Does the requirement for check valves for automatic protection against back-flow in 27.6.6 apply to marine unloading facilities?

Answer: Paragraphs 29.3.9 through 29.3.13 are applicable to marine flammable and combustible liquids wharves at bulk plants and provide exceptions and additions to Chapter 27, including 27.6.6. Use of check valves in tanker and barge unloading lines is not mandatory, but 29.3.11(4) requires the installation of block valves to control flow in the event of physical damage.

Issue Edition: 1976

Reference: 3-6.1

Issue Date: January, 1978

Reissued: January, 1994

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Reference: Table A.16.1.1(b)
F.I. 84-3

Question 1: Does the column in Table A.16.1.1(b), headed “Maximum Quantity of Containers (gal)” apply to the total quantity allowed in a single rack?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: Does the column in Table A.16.1.1(b), headed “Maximum Quantity of Containers (gal)” also apply to the total quantity allowed in the entire fire area?

Answer: Yes

Issue Edition: 1984

Reference: Table 4-6.1(b)

Date: April 1987

Reissued: August 1995