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Changes and Research with Tightness Testing

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Tightness Test Issues

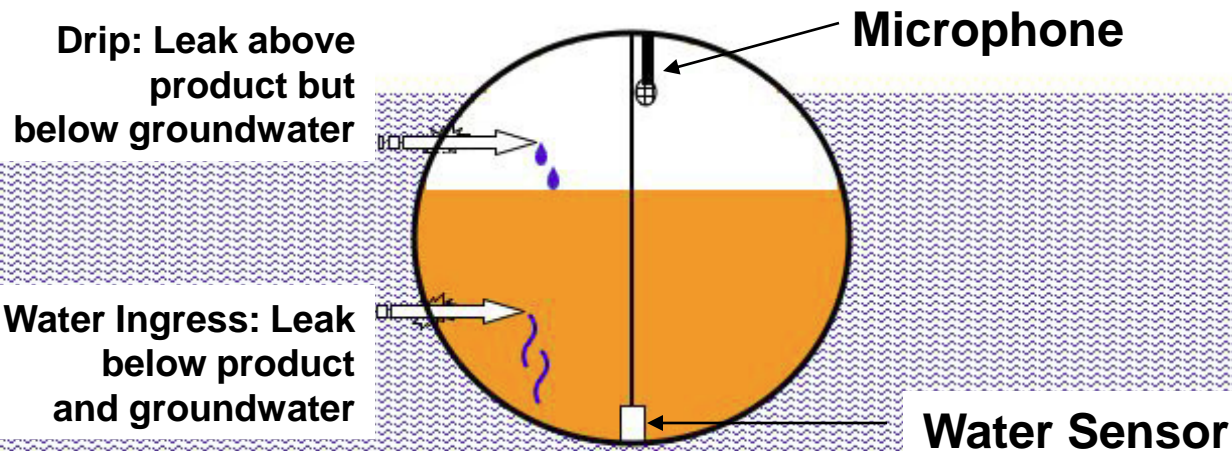
- Water Ingress
- Alternative Fuels
- ICC Exam
- EPA efforts on release detection in general



Water Ingress

Detecting Water Ingress with Nonvolumetric (“Vacuum”) Precision Tightness Test Methods

Groundwater Above Bottom of Tank



Water ingress that occurs above the product level is heard as a drip or flow entering the tank.

Water ingress that occurs beneath the level of product in the tank cannot be heard and must be detected by a water sensor placed at the bottom of the tank.

(Henderson, 2009)

Alternative Fuels

- Searches of www.nglde.org for fuel components:
 - “biodiesel” – zero
 - “methanol” – four
 - “ethanol” – five
 - “E85” – four
- None involved tank and line tightness testing as discussed during this webinar



Alternative Fuels -- continued

- www.nglde.org disclaimer on Non-Volumetric Tank Tightness Test Method (Tracer):

“Other fluids which are compatible and soluble with an acceptable tracer chemical may be tested after consultation with the manufacturer.”



International Code Council Exams—Mike Ezell, Washoe Co. (NV) Health District

- Web Site:
<http://www.iccsafe.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- Gaining in acceptance for the certification of tightness testers
 - Mandatory in Arizona, Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, and Wyoming
- Revised test has greater emphasis non-volumetric tightness testing methods



EPA Efforts on Release Detection— Tim Smith, EPA-OUST

- EPA's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program
 - Review is underway of EPA leak detection protocols
 - Selected leak detection methods will be evaluated for ethanol blends
 - How do higher ethanol blends affect the functionality of release detection equipment?
 - Automatic tank gauging is first



Sources

- **Brad Hoffman**, 20 Years of UST Compliance Testing: A Retrospective, presented at the 21st Annual National Tanks Conference, March 30, 2009. Brad works for Tanknology, INC.
- **National Work Group on Leak Detection Evaluations** (<http://www.nwglde.org/>)
- **Kevin Henderson**, L.U.S.T.line #62, 2009. Kevin works for the Mississippi DEQ.
- **Tim Smith**, EPA-OUST
- **Mike Ezell**, Washoe County (NV) Health District





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