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## FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT LICENSING & CERTIFICATION COMMAND

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: (23) in FP(LC) 314/07 Pt.7

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22 December 2016

To: Recipients of FSD Circular Letters

Dear Sir/Madam.

## FSD Circular Letter No. 7/2016 Revised Testing Standards for the Static Tanks for the Purpose of Storage of Dangerous Goods in Category 5 Class 3 in Bulk

Subsequent to a recent review of the fire safety requirements for static storage tanks for Category 5 Class 3 dangerous goods (DG), including aboveground tanks and underground tanks, the Fire Services Department (FSD) considers it is time to standardise the testing standards of such tanks. In this connection, the issue had been discussed with representatives of the concerned professional bodies, major stakeholders as well as relevant government departments. The matter had also been brought up to the Dangerous Goods Standing Committee (DGSC) for discussion.

With a view to standardizing the testing standards of the aforesaid tanks, the FSD and DGSC have critically examined the available international standards such as the "Guidance for the Storage and Dispensing of E5 Petrol and B5 Diesel at Filling Stations" issued by the Energy Institute, "British Standards" as well as "National Fire Protection Association Standards". It was endorsed that all the above-mentioned static storage tanks shall be tested by a Competent Person<sup>1</sup> for leakage hydraulically or pneumatically at a minimum pressure of 70 kPa for a period of not less than one hour before putting it into commission. Moreover, the owner(s) of such tank(s) shall provide a full set of designs and specifications of such tank(s), including the thickness

Competent Person refers to a Registered Professional Engineer in the 'Marine & Naval Architecture Discipline' or 'Mechanical Discipline' or an 'Authorized Surveyor' under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap 548) or the 'Boiler Inspector' under Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance (Cap 56).

of the wall, the dimensions and volume of the tank and the material used, etc to the Director of Fire Services for application for any licence or tank approval.

For the avoidance of doubt, the aforementioned testing standards do not apply to (i) any tank which is classified as the "Oil storage installation" within the meaning of section 2 of the Buildings Ordinance (Cap 123) and (ii) any fuel tank with a capacity of 500 litres or below storing Category 5 Class 3 DG for the purposes of supplying fuel to emergency generator for any fire service installation or equipment or for an emergency power backup facility.

The revised testing standards will be applicable to all initial applications for licence or approval, as the case may be, of Category 5 Class 3 DG static storage tanks on or after 1 April 2017.

The general fire safety requirements for storage of Category 5 Class 3 DG in static tanks are available on the FSD website: (http://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/eng/source/licensing/DG/index.html). For further enquiry, please contact our Dangerous Goods Division at 2417 5757.

Yours faithfully,

for Director of Fire Services