

## FIRE CODE RULING

MARCH 1996

92 FCR 011

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## LIQUID LEVEL MEASUREMENTS - TELUS, ALBERTA

## ISSUE:

Telus and its subsidiary companies (AGT and EDEL) have initiated a program of regularly scheduled inspection and maintenance of all of its storage tanks by personnel dispatched from a central location. To ensure consistency in the program they have requested that the requirements for weekly measurements of product and water levels of all tanks be extended to monthly and in some cases, on a next-time-in basis for tanks at remote locations.

## BACKGROUND:

The aboveground and underground storage tanks in question contain either diesel or kerosene and are used to provide primary or back-up power at telecommunications sites throughout Alberta. The majority of these tanks are located at sites that are not staffed by personnel suitably trained in the maintenance and inspection of storage tanks or are in remote areas of the Province only accessible by helicopter.

## CODE REQUIREMENTS:

Article 4.3.17.1., of the Alberta Fire Code states:

- (1) The product level and the level of water at the bottom of an underground *storage tank* shall be measured
  - (a) each day product is added or removed from the tank, or
  - (b) at least weekly if product is added or removed less frequently than once per week.
- (2) The product level and the level of water at the bottom of an aboveground *storage tank* shall be measured at least weekly.

Article 1.1.4.2. of the Alberta Fire Codes additionally states:

Longer intervals between the inspections and tests specified in this Code may be permitted provided an *inspector* or *local assistant* is satisfied that such intervals do not reduce the reliability of the system or equipment requiring inspection or testing.

ISSUE OF THIS RULING IS AUTHORIZED  
UNDER ARTICLE 1.1.4.4. OF THE ALBERTA  
FIRE CODE 1992 BY THE SENIOR TECHNICAL  
OFFICER, FIRE STANDARDS.

C.M.TYE

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, bold, sans-serif font.

Technical Services

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**RULING:**

After examination of procedures and initiatives implemented by Telus it has been determined that under Article 1.1.4.2. of the Alberta Fire Code 1992 liquid level measurement of storage tanks shall be as follows:

- a) storage tanks located in areas which are serviced through a central computerized dispatch process (227) shall have product and water levels measured on a monthly basis, and
- b) storage tanks in remote locations (6) are to have product and water levels measured on a monthly basis or on a next-time-in basis.

An extension is granted as product and water level measurement of all tanks is part of a scheduled storage tank inspection program undertaken by trained personnel dispatched from a central location.

This RULING applies throughout the Province of Alberta.

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