

# Fuel Safety Bulletin

## 2013-04

**Dated:** December 12, 2013

**Subject:** Underground propane tanks

We have recently been asked a number of questions regarding new underground (buried) propane tanks. These special tanks are presenting some unique sales opportunities since they are not visible to the public. They are also creating some unique problems due to their ownership, and maintenance requirements.

All underground tanks must be in full compliance with Section 7.8 of the *CSA B149.2 Propane Storage and Handling Code*. Please note that all such installations shall be made only with the prior approval of this office.

Since these tanks are buried, there are very specific requirements for location, and for corrosion prevention.

**7.8.7** Corrosion-control monitoring shall be done on an annual basis to ensure that the requirement specified in [Clause 7.8.6](#) is satisfied using a copper/copper sulphate reference electrode. Measurement of impressed current systems shall be made by means of a permanently installed meter clearly marked to meet the requirement of [Clause 7.8.6](#). Records of test results shall be maintained.

Please note that Clause 7.8.7 requires the propane supplier to monitor the condition of the corrosion control system at the time of initial installation or takeover, and, after that, on an annual basis. These records must be kept at the propane supplier's office, and made available for audit by a Fuel Safety Inspector. Failure to meet the requirements of Clause 7.8.6 means that this tank must not be filled until the problem is rectified.

We have also been asked about multiple underground propane tank installations. Please note that a full concrete support foundation will be required for these along with engineered tie-down provisions. Manifolding of these tanks shall not be underground, but at the building wall prior to the second stage regulator.

For any questions or concerns regarding this Bulletin, please contact me at our Halifax offices.

All Fuel Safety Bulletins can be viewed online at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lae/fuelsafety/fuelbulletins.asp>

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