

Appendix 5: Managing old tanks

Non-compliant, disused, or obsolete fuel tanks can be a risk to the safety of people and the environment. These tanks should be decommissioned by a competent person to avoid contamination. They should not be on-sold for storage.

When to decommission a fuel tank

Decommissioning should be carried out when a tank:

- is not being used
- is non-compliant or cannot achieve compliance certification
- has signs of significant rust pitting leading to wet rust
- has product weeping from welded seams
- is significantly dented or damaged, or
- has leg supports and platforms that are significantly rusted or damaged, causing the tank to be unstable.

Management of obsolete non-compliant tanks

Obsolete non-compliant tanks pose a risk to delivery drivers and you and your workers. An obsolete tank may be unstable and filling it may cause it to collapse or fall over onto people, or plant and machinery.

Unused tanks should be identified or tagged as 'out of service' to prevent them accidentally being filled by a fuel supplier.

Obsolete non-compliant tanks should, where at all possible, be decommissioned, degassed and destroyed by a person skilled and competent in this field. There may be professional engineers or tradespeople who do this in your area. You should contact your fuel distributor for advice.