



Building Standards and Codes

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Code Effective Date: October 31, 2017¹
Source Document: 19 NYCRR Part 1220 – RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION²
Topic: Installation of an Outdoor, Above Ground Fuel Oil Storage Tank

This document is to clarify the use of an outdoor, above ground fuel oil storage tank under the 2015 International Residential Code (2015 IRC).

Chapter 22 of the 2015 IRC addresses the piping and storage systems for residential fuel oil. Section M2201 entitled “Oil Tanks”, addresses tank requirements. Section M2201.1 specifies that *‘supply tanks shall be listed and labeled, and shall conform to UL 58 for underground tanks and UL 80 for indoor tanks.’*

Section M2201.2 of the 2015 IRC titled *‘Above-ground tanks’* does not specifically mention a reference standard, except to indicate that *‘the storage of fuel oil [...] in quantities exceeding 660 gallons (2498 L) shall comply with NFPA 31.’* The two UL reference standards mentioned in Section M2201.1 also indicate that tanks shall be *‘installed and used in accordance with NFPA 31.’* The edition of NFPA 31 incorporated by reference in Chapter 10 of the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement is 2011.

Section 2.1 of NFPA 31-2011 states that *“the documents or portions thereof listed in this Chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of this document.”*

Section 2.3.5 lists the following UL publications applicable to fuel storage tanks:

- UL 58, Standard for Steel Underground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids, 1996.
- ANSI/UL 80, Standard for Steel Tanks for Oil-Burner Fuels and Other Combustible Liquids, 2007.
- ANSI/UL 142, Standard for Steel Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids, 2006.
- ANSI/UL 443, Standard for Steel Auxiliary Tanks for Oil Burner Fuel, 2006.
- UL 1316, Standard for Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Plastic Underground Storage Tanks for Petroleum Products, Alcohols, and Alcohol-Gasoline Mixtures, 2006.
- UL 2080, Standard for Fire Resistant Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids, 2000.
- ANSI/UL 2085, Standard for Protected Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids, 1997.
- SU 2258, Outline of Investigation for Nonmetallic Tanks for Oil Burner Fuels and Other Combustible Liquids, 1999.

Section 7.2.7.1 of NFPA 31-2011 states that: *‘Atmospheric tanks shall be constructed in accordance with one of the... (same standards mentioned above) or its equivalent.’*

Section M2201.2.2 of the 2015 IRC clearly indicates that *‘outside, above ground tanks’* are permitted, and guidance for the approval process for the tanks is found in Chapter 1, Item 1.1, Section 103.1 of the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement, which modifies Chapter 1 of the 2015 IRC, stating that *“Materials, equipment and devices approved by the code*

¹ The “Code Effective Date” for this Technical Bulletin is October 31, 2017, which is the effective date of the current version of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code).

² The 2015 International Residential Code (2015 IRC) is a publication incorporated by reference in 19 NYCRR Part 1220. The 2017 Uniform Code Supplement is a publication incorporated by reference in 19 NYCRR Parts 1219 through 1228. The 2015 IRC, as amended by the 2017 Uniform Code Supplement, is part of the Uniform Code.

enforcement official for use shall be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval. Materials, equipment and devices tested by an approved testing laboratory shall be permitted to be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval."

Therefore, tanks which are listed and labeled for the installation and use for fuel oil storage outdoors as specified in NFPA 31-2011, are permitted to be approved by the code enforcement official for use in the State of New York, provided they are installed in accordance with such approvals and that the applicable UL certificates and tests performed and issued by UL for the specific tank remain valid.

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