



RUR 1 **ACCESS REQUIREMENTS ON ABOVE GROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS ON FARMS**

OBJECTIVE

To provide guidelines for farm workers and fuel delivery drivers on safe systems of work for accessing above ground fuel storage tanks on farms.

- The area between the delivery tanker and the fill point for the tank is kept free of rubbish, combustibles and tripping hazards.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act, 1985*, Section 19 requires an employer to provide a safe work environment and to provide a safe system of work. In addition, plant and equipment must be maintained in a safe condition.

**AS 1657, Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders – Design, construction and installation is the reference used to determine whether a ladder is safe.*

RISK CONTROL MEASURES

Access to the filling or dipping points of an above ground or overhead tanks is usually by ladder.

The risks of working at heights can be minimised by adopting a risk management approach by ensuring:

- The ladder meets the requirements of AS 1657*
- The ground at the base of the ladder is level and stable
- The ladder is in sound condition, with no rust pitting to the rungs, stiles, welds, fastening brackets and bolts
- The ladder is secured to the tank or supporting structure and does not move during access
- The ladder has sufficient height to allow workers to access the dip and fill points without over reaching
- The ladder starts within 300 mm of the ground and is at least 300 mm wide
- The ladder is at an angle of between 70 and 75 degrees (4 vertical to 1 horizontal)
- A platform and adequate handholds are provided at the top of the ladder

FURTHER INFORMATION

Workplace Services

GPO Box 465
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Tel. 1300 365 255
(If calling from a mobile phone or from interstate tel. (08) 8303 0400)

website: www.eric.sa.gov.au

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