

Guidelines for road tanker drivers' emergency actions on road tanker loading racks

2nd edition

GUIDELINES FOR ROAD TANKER DRIVERS' EMERGENCY ACTIONS
ON ROAD TANKER LOADING RACKS

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FOREWORD

This guidance has been developed with the aim of improving the safety of drivers and others carrying out loading of petroleum road tankers with petroleum main fuels products. Its need has been highlighted by the increasing incidence of drivers working on road tanker loading racks not owned and operated by their employers.

It is not intended that this guidance should be used as a means of enforcing changes to the alarm installations on existing road tanker loading racks. Its purpose is to provide guidance on how drivers should respond to different types of emergencies.

The document outlines recommended procedures to be adopted in the event of emergencies occurring at loading racks during the loading of petroleum road tankers. Observance of these procedures will encourage a consistent emergency response at all terminals and enhance the safety of drivers who load vehicles at installations operated by different companies.¹

The obligation to work safely and within the law rests at all times with management and employees. No responsibility of any kind can be accepted by the Energy Institute (EI) for the consequences of a safety incident at premises where the guidance outlined in this publication has been applied.

¹ The Chemical and Downstream Oil Industry Forum (CDOIF) has also produced relevant guidance on terminal loading operations, *Terminal loading operations hazard awareness* (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/committees/cif/resources.htm>).

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1 INTRODUCTION

Drivers of petroleum product road tankers may be called upon to load their vehicles at road loading facilities owned by a number of different operating companies. There may be differences in the emergency instructions given to drivers at the sites owing to variations in equipment and company policies. If an emergency occurs, these differences may lead to confusion and incorrect actions by visiting drivers, thereby increasing the risk to personal safety and property.

This publication has been prepared to provide recommendations for harmonised core emergency procedures in order to minimise the variations in emergency procedures at different road tanker loading racks. It offers guidance to site operators on the basic actions that should be taken by a driver in the event of an emergency occurring whilst a vehicle is being loaded. Recommendations are also outlined on primary emergency alarm systems that should be installed; however, the document does not provide guidance to site operators on the full range of emergency equipment and procedures that might be considered for product storage terminals, nor on the instruction and training given to a company's own drivers operating at its road tanker loading racks. Procedures for drivers and vehicles not on the loading racks, or those approaching the terminal, are also outside the scope of this document.

Basic emergency principles apply at all loading racks irrespective of whether they are arranged for top- or bottom-loading. The primary consideration of this guidance is the safety of the drivers and other persons on the loading rack at the time of an emergency.

It is emphasised that the guidance is directed at drivers loading at host sites. Companies may also elect to issue modified guidance to their own drivers, adopting similar basic principles.

This guidance does not cover the maintenance and testing of emergency installations.