S.B. No. 900

AN ACT

relating to the safety of storage vessels.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 26.341(b), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state and the purpose of this subchapter to:

(1)  maintain and protect the quality of groundwater and surface water resources in the state from certain substances in underground and aboveground storage tanks that may pollute groundwater and surface water resources; [~~and~~]

(2)  require the use of all reasonable methods, including risk-based corrective action, to implement this policy; and

(3)  promote the safety of storage vessels as defined in Section 26.3442, by adopting requirements for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of storage vessels, with the objective of protecting groundwater and surface water resources in the event of accidents and natural disasters.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter I, Chapter 26, Water Code, is amended by adding Sections 26.3442, 26.3443, and 26.3444 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.3442.  PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AT STORAGE VESSELS. (a) Definitions:

(1)  Storage vessel:

(A)  is made of nonearthen materials;

(B)  is located on or above the surface of the ground;

(C)  has a capacity of 21,000 gallons or more of a regulated substance as defined by Section 26.343, Water Code; and

(D)  is located at or is part of a petrochemical plant, a petroleum refinery, or a bulk storage terminal as that term is defined by Subsection (a)(2).

(2)  "Bulk storage terminal" means a site in this state, including end-of-line pipeline storage terminals (excluding breakout tanks), refinery storage terminals, for-hire storage terminals, and rail and barge storage terminals.

(3)  "National consensus standards" means any performance standard for storage tanks, or a modification thereof, that:

(A)  has been adopted and promulgated by a nationally recognized standards-producing organization under procedures whereby it can be determined by the commission that persons interested and affected by the scope or provisions of the standard have reached substantial agreement on its adoption; and

(B)  was formulated in a manner that afforded an opportunity for diverse views to be considered.

(b)  The following tanks, including any pipe that is connected to the tank, are not considered to be storage vessels and are exempt from regulation under the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels requirements in Sections 26.3442, 26.3443, and 26.3444:

(1)  a tank used in or associated with the production or gathering of crude oil or natural gas;

(2)  a tank that is part of a stormwater or wastewater collection system;

(3)  a flow-through process tank, including a pressure vessel or process vessel and oil and water separators;

(4)  a storage vessel operating above 0.5 Pounds per Square Inch Gauge;

(5)  heated tanks;

(6)  an intermediate bulk container or similar tank that may be moved within a facility;

(7)  a tank regulated under the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 U.S.C. Sec. 1201 et seq.);

(8)  a tank used for the storage of products regulated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 301 et seq.);

(9)  a tank, including piping and collection and treatment systems, that is used in the management of leachate, methane gas, or methane gas condensate, unless the tank is used for storage of a regulated substance;

(10)  a tank or pressure vessel that is used to store liquefied petroleum gas; and

(11)  a tank regulated under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) (49 U.S.C. 60101 et seq.).

(c)  Not later than September 1, 2023, the commission shall establish a Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program as described in this section to provide for the protection of groundwater and surface water resources from a release of substances from a storage vessel in the event of an accident or natural disaster.

(d)  In establishing the portion of the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program governed by this subsection, the commission shall, except as provided by Section 26.3443, include all and only those critical safety elements that are applicable to a storage vessel, and that the commission determines to be critical in this state for the protection described by Subsection (c), from the following federal statutes and regulations, ensuring that the correct critical safety elements are applied to the correct types of storage vessels as delineated in the applicability section of each cited federal statute and regulation:

(1)  Clean Air Act Risk Management Plan Rule and Maximum Achievable Control Technology/National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants program requirements;

(2)  Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requirements for Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (40 C.F.R. Parts 264/265, Subparts A-E);

(3)  Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulations (40 C.F.R. Part 112); and

(4)  EPA Risk Management Plan Rules regarding accident prevention at facilities that use certain hazardous substances.

(e)  In establishing the portion of the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program governed by this subsection, the commission shall, except as provided by Section 26.3443, include all and only those critical safety elements that are applicable to a storage vessel, and that the commission determines to be critical in this state for the protection described by Subsection (c), from the following national consensus standards, ensuring that the correct critical safety elements are applied to the correct types of storage vessels as delineated in the applicability section of each cited national consensus standard:

(1)  for in-service storage vessels constructed on or before September 1, 2027:

(A)  from American Petroleum Institute (API) Standard 653: Tank Inspection, Repairs, Alteration, and Reconstruction, the commission shall require adherence to the protocol to applicable tanks included in this standard for the following:

(i)  Section 4.3: Tank Shell Evaluation;

(ii)  Section 4.4: Tank Bottom Evaluation;

(iii)  Section 4.5: Tank Foundation Evaluation;

(iv)  Section 6.2: Inspection Frequency Considerations;

(v)  Section 6.3: Inspections from the Outside of the Tank;

(vi)  Section 6.4: Internal Inspection, if applicable in accordance with Section 6.3;

(vii)  Section 8: Design Considerations for Reconstructed Tanks; and

(viii)  Section 9: Tank Repair and Alteration;

(B)  from API Standard 2350 or API Recommended Practices 2350: Overfill Protection for Storage Tanks in Petroleum Facilities, the commission shall include the following critical safety elements for storage vessels included in this standard:

(i)  Section 4: Overfill Prevention Systems, including management systems and operational procedures before and after product receipt as applicable;

(ii)  Section 5: Overfill Prevention Systems, including requirements for manual or automated overfill prevention systems as applicable, including use of remote operated shutoff valves;

(iii)  the requirements referenced in Subparagraphs (i) and (ii) only apply to atmospheric tanks as specified in API Standard 2350; and

(iv)  API 2350 assessment protocol to determine how to manage overfill through engineered controls, administrative controls, and hazard class in applicable quantities; and

(C)  from either National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30 Ch. 22 or API Recommended Practice 2001, the commission shall require fire suppression systems on storage vessels subject to the protocol in the applicable standard; and

(2)  for in-service storage vessels constructed after September 1, 2027:

(A)  all of the standards listed in Subdivision (1); and

(B)  API 650: Welded Tanks for Oil Storage and NFPA 30, Chapter 22 location standards; and

(C)  NFPA 30, Chapter 22 location standards, except for reconstruction standards at an original storage vessel location.

(f)  The applicable standard chosen by the commission under Subsection (e)(1)(C) only applies to material stored at atmospheric pressure with a flashpoint less than or equal to 100 Fahrenheit as defined by OSHA Process Safety Management.

(g)  The applicable standard in Subsection (e)(2)(B) only applies to atmospheric storage vessels as defined in API 650.

(h)  The commission may require a plan to control spills from atmospheric storage vessels that includes recommended practices in NFPA 30.

(i)  An owner or operator of a storage vessel shall register with the commission, assess and report to the commission its current compliance status with the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program no later than September 1, 2027. For storage vessels constructed and brought into service after September 1, 2027, an owner or operator of a storage vessel shall register and certify its compliance status to the commission with the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program no later than 30 days after start of operation.

(j)  An owner or operator of a storage vessel shall comply with the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program requirements on completion of the next regularly scheduled out-of-service maintenance of the storage vessel by the owner or operator that occurs after September 1, 2027. However, all facilities must certify compliance status by no later than September 1, 2037. Any modifications or retrofits necessary for compliance with the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program should be made during these out-of-service maintenance periods as identified by the owner or operator unless the owner or operator makes and records with the commission a demonstration of technical impracticability that the commission approves.

(k)  The commission in implementing the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program shall require an owner or operator of a storage vessel or a designated third party as assigned by the owner or operator to certify compliance status every 10 years with the standards referenced in Subsections (d) and (e) as applicable.

(l)  The commission shall keep confidential information reported to, obtained by, or otherwise submitted to the commission that:

(1)  is subject to restrictions on dissemination under federal law, including off-site consequence analysis information subject to Title 40, Part 1400, C.F.R.; or

(2)  may otherwise present a security risk, if disclosed publicly.

(m)  The commission shall conduct on-site inspections of the registered/certified facilities at least once every five years to determine compliance with the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program. This subsection does not limit the commission's ability to inspect a facility under other state or federal regulations.

Sec. 26.3443.  CERTAIN COMMISSION EXEMPTIONS AND RULES; AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS. (a) The commission, in implementing the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program under Section 26.3442, may approve exemption of specific storage vessels otherwise subject to Section 26.3442 from regulation under the program if the legal owner or operator submits a request to the commission demonstrating that the vessel presents a sufficiently low risk of floods, storm surges, hurricanes, accidents, fires, explosions, or other hazards such that it does not warrant regulation under the program.

(b)  The commission shall establish through rulemaking the effective date of a federal law or regulation that the commission is implementing under Section 26.3442(d), or a national consensus standard that the commission is implementing under Section 26.3442(e). The commission shall amend through rulemaking changes if a federal law or regulation or national consensus standard is amended in a way that materially conflicts with the commission's current implementation of the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program except to the extent that the commission determines, after a cost-benefit analysis and if not prohibited under federal law, that the program as currently implemented by the commission is sufficiently effective for protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state.

(c)  Notwithstanding the requirement of Section 26.3442(e) that the commission include only critical safety elements from specified national consensus standards, the commission may initiate a rulemaking proceeding to determine whether, for certain vessels in certain situations, an alternative national consensus standard would be at least as effective for public health and safety but more cost effective for the persons affected to implement. The commission may by rule apply the alternative national consensus standard in circumstances under which it has determined the alternative standard is as effective for public health and safety but more cost effective.

Sec. 26.3444.  CERTIFICATION FEE. (a) The commission by rule shall establish fees in amounts sufficient to recover the reasonable costs to:

(1)  implement a registration program for affected facilities;

(2)  review initial and ten-year certifications;

(3)  amend certifications;

(4)  inspect certified facilities; and

(5)  enforce compliance with applicable standards of Section 26.3442 and rules and orders adopted under those subsections.

(b)  The certification fee under Subsection (a) shall be deposited to the credit of an account to be named the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program Account.

(c)  The commission may use the money in the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program Account to pay:

(1)  necessary expenses associated with the administration of the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program; and

(2)  expenses associated with the review and amendment of certifications, inspection of certified facilities, and enforcement of the applicable standards of Section 26.3442 and the rules and orders adopted by the Performance Standards for Safety at Storage Vessels Program.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_President of the Senate             Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 900 passed the Senate on April 29, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 27, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 900 passed the House, with amendments, on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, one present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor