

## CHAPTER 22

# SPECIAL PIPING AND STORAGE SYSTEMS

### SECTION M2201 OIL TANKS

**M2201.1 Materials.** Supply tanks shall be listed and labeled and shall conform to UL 58 for underground tanks and UL 80 for indoor tanks.

**M2201.2 Above-ground tanks.** The maximum amount of fuel oil stored above ground or inside of a building shall be 660 gallons (2498 L). The supply tank shall be supported on rigid noncombustible supports to prevent settling or shifting.

**M2201.2.1 Tanks within buildings.** Supply tanks for use inside of buildings shall be of such size and shape to permit installation and removal from dwellings as whole units. Supply tanks larger than 10 gallons (38 L) shall be placed not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from any fire or flame either within or external to any fuel-burning appliance.

**M2201.2.2 Outside above-ground tanks.** Tanks installed outside above ground shall be a minimum of 5 feet (1524 mm) from an adjoining property line. Such tanks shall be suitably protected from the weather and from physical damage.

**M2201.3 Underground tanks.** Excavations for underground tanks shall not undermine the foundations of existing structures. The clearance from the tank to the nearest wall of a basement, pit or property line shall not be less than 1 foot (305 mm). Tanks shall be set on and surrounded with noncorrosive inert materials such as clean earth, sand or gravel well tamped in place. Tanks shall be covered with not less than 1 foot (305 mm) of earth. Corrosion protection shall be provided in accordance with Section M2203.7.

**M2201.4 Multiple tanks.** Cross connection of two supply tanks shall be permitted in accordance with Section M2203.6.

**M2201.5 Oil gauges.** Inside tanks shall be provided with a device to indicate when the oil in the tank has reached a predetermined safe level. Glass gauges or a gauge subject to breakage that could result in the escape of oil from the tank shall not be used.

**M2201.6 Flood-resistant installation.** In areas prone to flooding as established by the local jurisdictions, tanks shall be installed at or above the design flood elevation established in Section R324 or shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement under conditions of the design flood.

**M2201.7 Tanks abandoned or removed.** Exterior above-grade fill piping shall be removed when tanks are abandoned or removed. Tank abandonment and removal shall be in accordance with the *Fire Code*.

### SECTION M2202 OIL PIPING, FITTING AND CONNECTIONS

**M2202.1 Materials.** Piping shall consist of steel pipe, copper tubing or steel tubing conforming to ASTM A 539. Aluminum

tubing shall not be used between the fuel-oil tank and the burner units.

**M2202.2 Joints and fittings.** Piping shall be connected with standard fittings compatible with the piping material. Cast iron fittings shall not be used for oil piping. Unions requiring gaskets or packings, right or left couplings, and sweat fittings employing solder having a melting point less than 1,000°F (538°C) shall not be used for oil piping. Threaded joints and connections shall be made tight with a lubricant or pipe thread compound.

**M2202.3 Flexible connectors.** Flexible metal hose used where rigid connections are impractical or to reduce the effect of jarring and vibration shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 536 and shall be installed in compliance with its label and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Connectors made from combustible materials shall not be used inside of buildings or above ground outside of buildings.

### SECTION M2203 INSTALLATION

**M2203.1 General.** Piping shall be installed in a manner to avoid placing stresses on the piping, and to accommodate expansion and contraction of the piping system.

**M2203.2 Supply piping.** Supply piping used in the installation of oil burners and appliances shall be not smaller than  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9 mm) pipe or  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9 mm) outside diameter tubing. Copper tubing and fittings shall be a minimum of Type L.

**M2203.3 Fill piping.** Fill piping shall terminate outside of buildings at a point at least 2 feet (610 mm) from any building opening at the same or lower level. Fill openings shall be equipped with a tight metal cover.

**M2203.4 Vent piping.** Vent piping shall be not smaller than  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (32 mm) pipe. Vent piping shall be laid to drain toward the tank without sags or traps in which the liquid can collect. Vent pipes shall not be cross connected with fill pipes, lines from burners or overflow lines from auxiliary tanks. The lower end of a vent pipe shall enter the tank through the top and shall extend into the tank not more than 1 inch (25 mm).

**M2203.5 Vent termination.** Vent piping shall terminate outside of buildings at a point not less than 2 feet (610 mm), measured vertically or horizontally, from any building opening. Outer ends of vent piping shall terminate in a weather-proof cap or fitting having an unobstructed area at least equal to the cross-sectional area of the vent pipe, and shall be located sufficiently above the ground to avoid being obstructed by snow and ice.

**M2203.6 Cross connection of tanks.** Cross connection of two supply tanks, not exceeding 660 gallons (2498 L) aggregate capacity, with gravity flow from one tank to another, shall be acceptable providing that the two tanks are on the same horizontal plane.

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**M2203.7 Corrosion protection.** Underground tanks and buried piping shall be protected by corrosion-resistant coatings or special alloys or fiberglass-reinforced plastic.

### SECTION M2204 OIL PUMPS AND VALVES

**M2204.1 Pumps.** Oil pumps shall be positive displacement types that automatically shut off the oil supply when stopped. Automatic pumps shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 343 and shall be installed in accordance with their listing.

**M2204.2 Shutoff valves.** A readily accessible manual shutoff valve shall be installed between the oil supply tank and the burner. Where the shutoff valve is installed in the discharge line of an oil pump, a pressure-relief valve shall be incorporated to bypass or return surplus oil.

**M2204.3 Maximum pressure.** Pressure at the oil supply inlet to an appliance shall be not greater than 3 pounds per square inch (psi) (20.7 kPa).

**M2204.4 Relief valves.** Fuel-oil lines incorporating heaters shall be provided with relief valves that will discharge to a return line when excess pressure exists.