

Operating the tank safely

The safety of operatives, the general public and the environment depends upon the responsible operation of tank containers during loading, discharge, storage and transport. It is essential to ensure the following before loading or dispatching a tank container.

The tank is the correct type and in the proper mechanical condition

Ensure that the tank container being used is suitable and approved for the carriage of the cargo concerned and has been well maintained, inspected and tested in accordance with the regulations. It should also have successfully completed Pre-trip inspection.

[click to view pre-trip inspection](#)

The tank is labelled

The correct identification and hazard warning labels must be attached in their appropriate positions on the container. Labels which are no longer applicable must be removed.

The tank is filled correctly

The ullage (free space in loaded tank) must comply with the regulations.

[click to view ullage calculations](#)

Suitable equipment is available

The loading or discharge equipment (hoses, couplings, gauges, pumps, compressors etc) are in good order and suitable for the product to be handled.

The tank interior and exterior is suitably clean

Ensure that any residue from previous cargoes is removed or is compatible with the product to be loaded. The exterior of the tank, especially the labels and markings, must not be contaminated or obscured with cargo spillage.

The gross weight is not exceeded

The gross weight of the vehicle when loaded must not exceed the weight limitations imposed by regulation.

All operations are competently supervised

The personnel in charge of loading or discharge must be in possession of written instructions detailing the safety requirements and emergency procedures in relation to the handling of the cargo and must have been trained to the required level of competency.

The gas or air supply is clean

Ensure that any gas / air supply used for loading, discharge or blanketing will not contaminate the cargo.

Product handling

The manufacturer of the product can be contacted for advice and information on the appropriate safety standards. Required protective clothing may consist of part or all of the following depending on the hazard.



Body protection, apron, trousers or suit



Boots, clogs or overshoes



Gloves



Eye protection, visor or glasses



Safety helmet and/or hood



Vapour mask or breathing apparatus

The protective clothing must be resistant to the type of product being handled