

# GUIDE TO NEW TANK REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

According to 2015 IRC, effective October 1, 2018

*A Building Permit is now REQUIRED for underground storage tank removal based on the following:*

## (Amd) SECTION M2201.7 – TANK ABANDONMENT AND REMOVAL

(Add) **M2201.7.1 Removal from service of tanks and related equipment.** Except as provided for in M2201.7.2 or M2201.7.3, if a tank and its related piping are abandoned for whatever reason, the tank and all piping connected to it, including the outside fill and vent piping and any piping connected to the appliance, *shall* be emptied of all contents, cleaned, removed from the premises or property, and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

(Add) **M2201.7.2 Temporary removal from service.** If a liquid fuel-burning appliance is converted to an alternate fuel, but the tank is kept in place so that it can be returned to service at some future date, the following requirements *shall* be met before the alternate fuel is used:

1. The entire contents of the tank *shall* be completely removed and the tank purged of all vapors.
2. The fuel tank vent line *shall* remain intact and open.
3. The outside fill pipe *shall* be removed and the tank opening *shall* be capped or plugged or the outside fill pipe *shall* be capped and filled with *concrete*, and all remaining piping, other than the vent line, *shall* be capped or sealed.

(Add) **M2201.7.3 Permanent abandonment of underground tanks.** Underground tanks *shall* be permitted to be permanently closed in place if the following requirements are met:

1. All applicable authorities having jurisdiction shall be notified.
2. A safe workplace shall be maintained throughout the prescribed activities.
3. All flammable and combustible liquids and residues shall be removed from the tank, appurtenances and piping, and shall be disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements and industry practices, using a written procedure.
4. The tank, appurtenances, and piping shall be made safe by either purging them of flammable vapors or inerting the potential explosive atmosphere. Confirmation that the atmosphere in the tank is safe shall be by testing of the atmosphere using a combustible as indicator if purging, or an oxygen meter if inerting, at intervals in accordance with written procedures.
5. Access to the tank shall be made by careful excavation to the top of the tank.
6. All exposed piping, gauging and tank fixtures, and other appurtenances, except the vent, shall be disconnected and removed.
7. The tank shall be completely filled with an inert solid material.
8. The tank vent and remaining underground piping shall be capped or removed.
9. The tank excavation shall be backfilled.