

Certification of Tank Stands at Wedge

It was a requirement of the License conditions that all tank stands be removed from the Reserve by 31st May 2020, unless engineering certification of the structural integrity of the tank stand is provided to DBCA on or before 31 May 2020.

This certification of tank stands must be done by a qualified structural engineer, and covers various aspects of design, materials, construction and state of repair to ensure integrity of the stand and its capability to support the tank and contents during extreme conditions.

Given the current preferred government policy of social distancing to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, WIPA has been negotiating with DBCA to defer the compliance date for tank stand removal or certification by an engineer by six months, or until such time as it is socially responsible to bring consultants on site.

DBCA has determined a deferral to be appropriate and has aligned the tank stands to the electrical compliance and other water storage facilities due date, specifically 31 May 2021.

DBCA has advised all licence holders by letter of the amended condition 8.a) of November 2019 Conditions of Licence to reflect this 31 May 2021 date.

While this gives shack licensees another 12 months to obtain certification or remove tank stands, WIPA encourages all members to not be complacent on this activity as there is a safety aspect to the certification or removal of stands requirement.

Removal of tank stands may also impact work needed to meet requirements for water storage facilities, such as removal of non-compliant tanks, and for electrical compliance, such as inclusion of pressure pump to replace a gravity fed header tank.

WIPA has been in discussions with several structural engineers who are willing to take on this work to visit Wedge, inspect the tanks and to prepare the certification.

These discussions have been based on individual members providing specific data about their tank stand/s to the engineer so the inspection and certification process can be expedited. The certification process requires a site visit for inspection of each tank stand. To facilitate the inspection of an expected large number of tanks stands, a block of inspections will be done during each site visit by the engineer.

Those members wanting to retain keep their tank stands will need to provide the following:

- Dimensions of the elements of the tank stand and the tank it supports
- A drawing of the tank stand
- Photographs of the front and side elevations of the tank stand.

A document template containing all the details to be collected will be provided to members. The completed Tank Stand Information document will be submitted to the engineer for their processing. This information may be verified at the site visit.

COST

This certification activity for tank stands will not be cheap. Discussions with the engineers suggests that it will cost \$500 to \$700 per tank stand. However, WIPA is continuing work on finding the cheapest option.

This estimate is dependent on accurate information being provided and the number of tank inspections conducted, with the site visit costs including travel time to be shared by all members having tanks inspected.

TANK STAND INFORMATION FORM

The Tank Stand Information Template document is ready for a final review by WIPA Committee and by the engineers.

Members will be notified when the template and instructions on completing the Information form are available for distribution.

Only those people who have submitted the Information form will be provided the opportunity to get certification through this scheme.

INSPECTIONS

Once all Tank Stand Information documents have been submitted, the engineers will schedule the site visit. The cost of this site visit is then spread across all members that had their tank stands inspected.

There is usually three ways the inspections can go.

1. everything is straight forward and the tank stand passes and no remedial work required;
2. inspection reveals a minor fix or change is needed before certification can be completed, with a photograph submitted to allow certification to be completed; or
3. inspection determines that significant work/repair needs to be done prior to certification, with a second visit possibly required (may be additional cost).

The third scenario will cost a lot more than scenario 1 or 2, assuming a second site visit is required. Members who find themselves in this situation may decide to remove the tank stand.

OVERVIEW OF THE TANK STAND CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The steps for tank stand certification are outlined here:

- Request from member to WIPA for an Application Form – one request for each stand to be certified
- WIPA sends Application Form/s to the member and logs registration of interest

- Completed Application Form/s, with drawing and photos, one set for each stand, are sent to WIPA
- Application Form/s checked that all information has been provided, and that the drawing and photos are suitable. These may be returned for the requestor to include any missing details or items
- Application document set, comprising Application Form, drawing and photos, are sent to the Engineer – one document set for each stand
- The Engineer will initiate Certification activity using the details in the Application Document Set. The Engineer may contact the requestor for clarification or for additional information
- Onsite Inspection of stands will be scheduled in blocks, with the Engineer advising the requestor and WIPA of member, shack number, date and time
- WIPA representative will assist the Engineer to move around the settlement to the relevant shacks for inspection
- Members are requested to be present at the inspection, or to arrange for someone to attend on their behalf, so that any issues with the stand and any recommendations on rectifying problems can be passed on. Once the recommended rectification has been done, the member will contact the Engineer to schedule another inspection
- The Engineer will complete the calculations and analysis, and issue the Certification to the requestor, plus advising WIPA of the outcome
- Copy of the Engineering Certification to be provided to DBCA prior to the due date, 31 May 2021.

ENGINEERS

WIPA will circulate details of the engineers who are providing these inspection and certifications at Wedge when discussions on the process schedule dates are complete, and the template is agreed.

REMOVAL OF TANK STANDS

Members are reminded that all tank stands must be removed from the Reserve by 31st May 2021, unless engineering certification is provided to DBCA on or before 31May2021.

This applies to any structure that supports a water tank, regardless of the height of the stand, and includes any header tank on a shack roof used for water storage or connected to a water heater.

CONTACT

Those members wishing to keep their tank stands, contact details are:

- to request a copy of the Application Form and inquiries on completing the forms
operations@wedgewa.com.au
- for inquiries of a technical nature about tank stands
projects@wedgewa.com.au