

EEMUA: Addressing the needs of today's tank storage industry

This whitepaper, provided by EEMUA, outlines how EEMUA 159 training contributes to safe and efficient storage tank operations.

Oil and petrochemical industry feedstocks, refinery products, general chemicals and other products have been stored in above-ground, vertical cylindrical tanks for many years.

At first sight these tanks appear of simple design and construction with harmless working environments. However, this is not the case in practice, as witnessed by the many incidents associated with such tanks that continue to occur around the world.

The EEMUA 159 training courses aim to train, assess and help certify as competent, those who have responsibility for the inspection, assessment, maintenance and oversight of tank storage operations.

The training portfolio helps organisations through training set at the competency levels demanded by industry and delivered online, blended, in house, or in classrooms to suit the engineering community and their work needs. Public courses are delivered internationally throughout on a year cycle, with many offered face-to-face in either English, Dutch, French or German languages.

Based on internationally recognised user guides, such as EEMUA 159 Edition 6, and other industry publications, as well as regulations and formal standards, the training is currently offered at Practitioner, Basic application and Awareness competency levels.

The EEMUA 159 training has been benefitting the tank storage sector for over twenty-five years and can be readily applied to the new types of installation that the energy transition is requiring.

EEMUA 159 TankAssessor

The course is aimed at engineers, operational supervisors and inspectors looking to improve their understanding of and/or become qualified in assessing the integrity of tanks and foundations.

A training and competency course that describes many of the key features of tank design and the common problems that can arise in service. The course identifies many of the actions that may be taken to avoid operational problems or remedy the effects.

The objectives of the TankAssessor course are to enable learners to:

- Gain an understanding of the design, materials and fabrication aspects of tank construction with respect to repair or restrictions of use after degradation in service.
- Understand the principles, output and limitations of inspection methods and techniques.
- Be able to make a sound assessment of the integrity of a storage tank and foundation and offer guidance on the need for repair, its urgency and methods of effecting such repair.
- Understand requirements for overflow protection.
- Understand requirements for secondary and tertiary containment.

EEMUA 159 TankInspector

A training and competency course that will enable learners to gain the knowledge and understanding of the inspection requirements during various stages of the tank service life – construction, operation, repair/maintenance and demolition. It covers key principles, output and limitations of inspection methods and techniques, together with the relation between all major damage mechanisms and different tank components.

EEMUA 159 TankInspector does not provide the competence required for fitness for service assessment, for which a valid EEMUA 159 TankAssessor certificate is required.

EEMUA 159 Tank Integrity Manager

A training course that focuses on developing the knowledge and skills required to assess the dilemmas on making a tank 'fit for purpose' within financial constraints, time limits and legal compliance, and creating a sustainable tank management process including setting up systems and procedures.

The course deals with the theory behind the Probabilistic Preventive Maintenance (PPM) methodology, which is based upon two underlying methodologies: Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) and Reliability-Centred Maintenance (RCM). This will create the knowledge required to be an effective member of an RBI team. The course identifies many of the actions that may be taken to create a sustainable tank management process through a 5-day course including face to face teaching at major international storage tank hubs.

While TankAssessor and TankInspector focus on current integrity, Tank Integrity Manager focuses on assuring integrity in the future.

EEMUA 159 TankBasics

A blended online training course providing an introduction to industrial-scale storage tanks. It gives learners a basic understanding of the different tank designs, and how tanks should be inspected, assessed, operated, maintained and repaired, without going into the detailed calculations. It is strongly recommended that TankBasics is passed before advancing to either the TankInspector or TankAssessor courses.

TankBasics delivers in-depth training to engineers where they work – to give professionals the flexibility to learn on-site, on-call, or working from home. The course uses enterprise-class online technology to deliver effective training that is time-efficient for learners and their work.

EEMUA 159 e-learning

A short (can be completed in 30 minutes) online awareness-level course introducing learners to the inspection, maintenance and repair of above ground flat bottomed storage tanks as described in EEMUA Publication 159. The e-learning is taken online at the learner's pace and convenience in either English or Dutch language versions.

The course is recommended for all levels of employees who are just starting to work with storage tanks, as well as tank farm managers, safety representatives and supervisors. On completion of the desktop version, immediate certification is provided.

It is strongly recommended that the EEMUA 159 e-learning is completed before advancing to the TankBasics course.



Why Attend StocExpo?

At StocExpo 2026, storage providers and suppliers working across a range of fuels and liquid bulk substances will come together to address key industry challenges and help prepare personnel for a changing energy landscape. **Join us in Rotterdam on 10 & 11 March.**

StocExpo is dramatically expanding its educational element in 2026 with certified training workshops in collaboration with EEMUA. As part of this exciting new show feature, attendees will have the opportunity to gain EEMUA CPD/PDH-accredited certification through participation in two expert-led workshops, running each morning on 10 and 11 March 2026.

These sessions are designed to support workers in the sector, offering updates on key topics. This marks a significant step forward in StocExpo's commitment to delivering not just networking and business value, but meaningful, industry-recognised training opportunities at the event that attendees can apply directly and immediately within their sites and organisations.

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