

Agenda Item: 653-2055

Title: Inspection of Scaffold Cable Support

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Purpose: Add inspection criteria for painter scaffold cable supports to API 653 to ensure continued integrity.

Source: Suggested change from agenda item 650-1085

Revision: 1

Impact: Neutral

Background: API 650 provides details for installation of painter scaffold hitches. There was a preceding agenda item 650-1085 to improve design, details, and use of the hitch. The committee needs to establish inspection criteria for the hitches to ensure that they remain in acceptable condition and can continue to be used as an anchorage point.

Establish role and responsibility of the owner as responsible for providing anchor points and approving their use. This is consistent with the role of employer in OSHA requirements.

1926.502(a)(2)

“Employers shall provide and install all fall protection systems required by this subpart for an employee, and shall comply with all other pertinent requirements of this subpart before that employee begins the work that necessitates the fall protection.”

Identify inspection activities that the API 653 inspector must perform. The inspection should be designed in a way that can demonstrate that an API 650 scaffold cable support in like new condition will be fit for use. API should not address custom designed supports, as they are outside the scope of API 650 and API 653.

Require inspections that are listed in OSHA regulations, “wear, damage, deterioration.”

1926.502(d)(21)

“Personal fall arrest systems shall be inspected prior to each use for wear, damage and other deterioration, and defective components shall be removed from service.”

Remove inspection checklist item for “structural soundness” as the term is ambiguous.

Proposal: New paragraph 4.2.2.3 and revision to Annex C checklist C.1.5.3

4.2.2.3

- a) If the cone roof has existing scaffold cable supports or any other appurtenance that a competent person, such as defined by OSHA, may select for use as an anchor point for a personal fall arrest system or a fall positioning system, the owner-operator shall provide for inspection of these items by a qualified person. The inspection shall consider corrosion, wear, deterioration, damage, and deformation.
- b) Inspection of the identified items shall be performed when assessing the integrity of the tank roof. Thicknesses of the potential anchor point components and the adjacent roof plates shall be performed by NDE methods including but not limited to UT thickness measurement. Inspection data, including component thicknesses, dimensions, weld details, weld sizes, configuration, and height of the scaffold support, shall be compared to API 650 Scaffold-Cable Support requirements. Defects such as cracks or deformation shall be cause for rejection. If cracks are suspected, additional NDT methods should be considered.
- c) Any conditions that might adversely affect the use of the anchor point shall be repaired or evaluated by a Storage Tank Engineer prior to the owner-operator allowing their use as an anchor point for scaffold support, personal fall protection, or fall positioning.

C.1.5.3 Fixed Roof Scaffold Support

Inspect scaffold support for corrosion, wear, deterioration, damage, and deformation ~~and structural soundness.~~