

Agenda Item: 650-1138

Title:	Bolt on Foam Dams in Annex H	
Date:	5/11/2026	
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Purpose:	A change was made to API 650 Annex C several years ago to incorporate rim-mounted, bolt-on foam dams and a plate thickness option that is not currently in NFPA 11. Foam dams used on internal floating roofs have similar design criteria. So, Annex H should be updated to be consistent with Annex C. Currently, Annex H only references compliance with NFPA 11. Specifically, H.5.9 should reference the same design criteria as C.3.16.2 with the exception that rainwater drainage is not required.	
Source:	API 650	
Revision:	0	
Impact:	Neutral	
Standard or Practice:	API 650	
Section:	API 650 H.5.9 & L.3.1 -32	
Table	NA	
Current Text:	H.5.9 Foam Dams A foam dam, if specified on the Data Sheet, Line 32, shall be fabricated and installed in compliance with NFPA 11. L.3.1 Line 32 Foam Dam? (Yes/No): See C.3.16.2.	
Suggested Change:	H.5.9 should mirror C.3.16.2, with the exception of the water drainage provisions. Additionally, L.3.1, line 32, should be revised to also reference H.5.9.	
Suggested Text:	H.5.9 Foam Dams A foam dam, if specified on the Data Sheet, Line 32, shall be designed to retain foam at the seal area, at a depth to cover the seal area while causing the foam to flow laterally to the point of seal rupture. The top of the foam dam shall be at least 300 mm (12 in.) but no more than 600 mm (24 in.) from the tank shell. The foam dam shall be a minimum of 300 mm (12 in.) high and extend at least 50 mm (2 in.) above the secondary seal, a combustible secondary seal using a plastic-foam log, or any burnout panel, measured at its highest contact point with the shell. The foam dam shall be fabricated from minimum sheet metal thickness of 10-gauge (0.134 in.) carbon steel, 18- gauge (0.050 in.) stainless steel, or other sufficiently fire resistant material. A bolted foam dam shall be attached to the outer rim, the rim angle, or to an angle that has been welded to the deck or pontoons. During design and construction, steps should be taken to prevent seal separation and associated	

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	compliance issues. A welded foam dam shall be installed on the top plates of the pontoon or roof deck. Welded foam dams and support angles used for bolted foam dams shall be continuously welded on the foam side. Support braces, if required, shall be installed on the side of the foam dam closest to the center of the tank at a circumferential spacing of approximately 1.5 m (5 ft) on center, but need not be welded or permanently affixed to the floating roof. L.3.1 Line 32 Foam Dam? (Yes/No): See C.3.16.2. or H.5.9
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