

Mobile...

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

**CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE**

*Dr. Kehoe
advised
10/1/40*

SAFETY DIVISION

NEW YORK August 28, 1940

ROBERT A. KEHOE, M.D.
CHAIRMAN

OSCAR B. LEWIS
MANAGER

RUSSELL SCHELL
ASSISTANT MANAGER

Dr. R. A. Kehoe

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

We are attaching a report from our New York Division with reference to the cleaning of tankers and barges. This does not give complete information on the subject, but may be helpful until such time as it can be supplemented with additional data.

Very truly yours,

O. B. LEWIS

By: *Russell Schell*

RS:GCL
Enclosure

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ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

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405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK

August 16, 1940

INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. R. C. Murphy

Dear Dick:

Ref: Cleaning of tankers
and barges.

The following were called on today with reference to the
cleaning of petroleum tankers and barges.

Mr. S. Coates
Marine Repair Div.
Socony Vacuum Oil Co., Inc.
26 Broadway, New York City.

Mr. J. H. Brown
Safety Supervisor
Tide Water Oil Co.
17 Battery Place, New York City.

Mr. Jack Woodward
Marine Div.
Standard Oil Co. of N. J.
Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

Mr. Ross
Supt. Engineer
C. D. Mallory & Co., Inc.
11 Broadway, New York City.

It would seem that all tankers are cleaned by the Butterworth System (Butterworth System Inc., 26 Broadway, New York City). This system employs high pressure water heated to at least 180° F and ejected through whirling jets against the sides, top and bottom of the hold. This knocks off all of the scale and pulverizes it so that practically all of it is pumped out by the ships pumps. Men rarely enter the holds except when there is an excess of scale that the pumps have not removed or twice a year when the ship is docked for inspection and repairs. Tankers in continuous gasoline service are rarely cleaned more than twice a year. In such tankers there are instances where as much as 25 bbls. of scale have been removed by hand after use of the Butterworth system. Usually the scale can be measured in a few bucketfuls. Tankers carrying different products are cleaned at each change and may be as often as once a week.

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The holds are completely gas freed at each cleaning ~~if~~ and thoroughly tested if men are to enter. Men do not wear masks or special clothing although air line blower masks seem to be available on each boat. It seems to be the common opinion that the scale deposits in a gasoline tanker are the result of the salt water ballast usually carried one way.

Barges are usually for fresh water service and rarely travel with a water ballast. The greater part of the barge fleets are cleaned only once a year when docked for inspection and repairs. Few barges are cleaned with the Butterworth System as the tanks are small and water streams from a hose can reach every part from the manhole. Here again men rarely enter the tanks except in extreme cases as in tankers or when being docked for repairs. Air line masks are seldom used although available at most points where cleaning takes place.

All companies seem to be very careful in testing tankers and barges for freedom from petroleum gases before men are permitted to enter them. Tankers carry their own testing equipment.

We can arrange to witness the cleaning of a tanker using the Butterworth System by getting in touch with:

Mr. T. J. Heath
Tide Water Oil Co.
17 Battery Place, New York City.

The above information was gathered rather hastily in one day so not much time was spent at any one point in discussing details. It is my suggestion that if more detail is desired that we first witness the cleaning of a tanker. We probably could then ask more intelligent questions and picture more clearly what is being discussed.

Very truly yours,

A. J. Baldwin
A. J. Baldwin

P.S. it seems that it takes from 24 to 36 hours to clean a tanker. When men do enter they stay in until their work is finished whether it is 1/2 hr. or all day (except for lunch time).

A. J. B.