

# Pressure Testing of Fuel Tanks



Commercial Marine Services | **FACT SHEET**

This Fact Sheet provides a general description of the pressure testing of fuel tanks.

## General

All fuel tanks for a Commercial Vessel are to be tested to a pressure of 24.525kPa or 2.5m water or 3.6psi (20kPa or 2.04m water or 2.9psi if a Hire and Drive Houseboat).

The pressure for the test may be measured by means of a Liquid Manometer or a Pressure Gauge.

When a pressure gauge is used, care must be taken to prevent the over-pressuring of the compartment.

## Method of Air Test

Air is applied to the tank until the required test pressure is achieved. The air is then shut off and all welded seams, joints and connections are tested with soapy water to determine if there are any leaks and the positions of the leaks.

Where leaks do occur, the leak area is to be re-welded, and on completion, the air test repeated. This operation is to be repeated if necessary until no further leaks are observed.

The liquid manometer may be constructed of a 12mm bore clear plastic tube mounted on a vertical sightboard.

The tube should be of sufficient length so that the pressure can be raised to a 2.5m head of water or with the tank full of water to the maximum head, whichever is greater.

## Pressure Gauge

The pressure gauge is connected to the tank connection pipe and the air pressure applied until the required test pressure is recorded on the gauge.

The air supply valve is then closed and the tank checked for leaks.

It is essential when using a pressure gauge to ensure that the gauge is correctly calibrated at all times.

An air pressure relief valve set at a percentage of 25 kPa is to be fitted in the air supply pipe to the gauge

## For further information

call: 08 8348 9543

email: [DPTI.Commercialmarineservices@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPTI.Commercialmarineservices@sa.gov.au)

visit: [www.dpti.sa.gov.au/marine/survey](http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/marine/survey)



Government of South Australia

Department of Planning,  
Transport and Infrastructure

# FUEL TANK PRESSURE TEST RECORD SHEET

Vessel Name:  Vessel ID:

Tank Manufacturer:

Date of Pressure Test:

Fuel Tank (description and position (P,S or C)	Tested Pressure Tested and Confirmed Airtight

This is a true record of the results of the pressure tests conducted on the above fuel tanks.

Name of Authorized Person:

Signature:

Date:

## Further information

Contact the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure:

Commercial Marine Services  
Kateena Street, Regency Park SA 5010  
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visit: [www.dpti.sa.gov.au/marine/survey](http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/marine/survey)



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