

# **Protection Against Ignitions Arising Out of Static, Lightning, and Stray Currents**

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 2003  
EIGHTH EDITION, SEPTEMBER 2015



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

## Foreword

Nothing contained in any API publication is to be construed as granting any right, by implication or otherwise, for the manufacture, sale, or use of any method, apparatus, or product covered by letters patent. Neither should anything contained in the publication be construed as insuring anyone against liability for infringement of letters patent.

Shall: As used in a standard, “shall” denotes a minimum requirement in order to conform to the specification.

Should: As used in a standard, “should” denotes a recommendation or that which is advised but not required in order to conform to the specification.

This document was produced under API standardization procedures that ensure appropriate notification and participation in the developmental process and is designated as an API standard. Questions concerning the interpretation of the content of this publication or comments and questions concerning the procedures under which this publication was developed should be directed in writing to the Director of Standards, American Petroleum Institute, 1220 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Requests for permission to reproduce or translate all or any part of the material published herein should also be addressed to the director.

Generally, API standards are reviewed and revised, reaffirmed, or withdrawn at least every five years. A one-time extension of up to two years may be added to this review cycle. Status of the publication can be ascertained from the API Standards Department, telephone (202) 682-8000. A catalog of API publications and materials is published annually by API, 1220 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Suggested revisions are invited and should be submitted to the Standards Department, API, 1220 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, [standards@api.org](mailto:standards@api.org). This updated publication was prepared under the direction of the API Safety and Fire Protection Subcommittee. The first edition was published in 1956 with subsequent editions in 1967, 1974, 1982, 1991, 1998, and 2008. This eighth edition builds on the technically sound work presented in prior editions. It emphasizes the need to maintain awareness and the continuing need to develop and use sound procedures for controlling hazards and minimizing the possible static ignition risks associated with handling hydrocarbons.

With environmental regulations requiring lower sulfur specification for diesel fuel throughout the world, revisions to the processing to remove sulfur with the need to supplement the new fuels with additives, such as those to improve lubricity, the resultant fuels are much lower in conductivity, often below 2 C.U. This in turn enhances the ability of the fuel to generate and accumulate static charges while flowing through pipes. While there is not a direct correlation between sulfur level and conductivity, current data shows that most low sulfur fuels have low conductivity. The precautionary advice regarding ULSD provided in this eighth edition of API 2003 has been updated to align with recently published guidance in other recommended practices.