Use of “Relieving Style” Steel Drums for Flammable Liquids Will Mean Increases in Allowable Storage Heights in Protected Warehouses

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ABSTRACT

Relieving style containers in conjunction with an AFFF sprinkler system allow those who store drums in warehouses to double storage heights. This is based on the recently completed fire tests under the direction of the Steel Shipping Container Institute. The test results established new safety standards embodied in the National Fire Protection Agency’s NFPA Code 30. The sprinkler design, in conjunction with the successful operation of the self-relieving steel drums, allowed for suppression of the fire scenario without generating hazardous pressure or temperature conditions within the drums or the adjacent structure. The absence of successful pressure-relieving systems and/or fire suppression systems may lead to dangerously high drum pressures, which would eventually lead to violent rupture and release of additional fuel. As a result, the proper operation of pressure-relieving and fire suppression systems are imperative for minimizing structural damage, and ensuring a higher level of safety to both employees and fire fighters during fire conditions.