

International Tank Container Organisation (ITCO)

technical guidelines covering safety, intermediate inspection and testing, tank sustainability, repurposing and recycling, seals and gaskets

the challenge

As a completely novel piece of transportation equipment, the tank container presented a completely new set of challenges to manufacturers, operators, and regulators.

The new safety challenges included working from height, entry into confined spaces, handling hazardous cargoes such as polymerizing substances, and disposal of waste from the cleaning process to name but a few.

the innovation

Over the past 25 years ITCO has continuously sought to improve the safety, sustainability and efficiency of the tank container, and promoted these benefits to the user community and regulators. ITCO embarked on a long-term project to develop Technical Guidelines covering these safety aspects, as well other topics including Intermediate Inspection and Testing, Tank Sustainability Repurposing and Recycling, and Seals and Gaskets.

ITCO is currently working on a project to develop a Depot Audit and Assessment Scheme to raise the safety and environmental standards of container depots around the world. The Technical Guidelines are aimed at providing support to tank operators and service providers in order to improve safety performance for employees working within the industry.

In addition, the ITCO E-learning Tank Container Course offers several significant benefits for professionals in the tank container industry. The course provides comprehensive, self-paced learning, enabling participants to gain in-depth knowledge about the safe and efficient handling, transportation, and maintenance of tank containers.

The course also covers the technical aspects of tank containers, such as the types of containers, their design features, and the various safety measures required for their use. This ensures participants are well-versed in the technicalities of handling hazardous and non-hazardous goods, which is critical for compliance with legal and environmental regulations.

Moreover, the ITCO E-learning course is an excellent way to stay updated on industry advancements. As technology and regulatory frameworks evolve, the course material is regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects the latest industry standards.

how it was implemented

As a relatively small industry association, with limited financial and human resources, ITCO had to rely on the resources contributed by its members participating in targeted industry Work Groups. ITCO was able to support part-time consulting resources comprising mostly retired technical experts who could drive the development and lead the Work Groups.

However, without this committed, professional leadership and support the results would have been delayed, or less productive.

result

ITCO has the Vision of being the Tank Container industry association of choice by 2030. We have demonstrated value to our members' around the globe, and today have approximately 180 members from all stakeholders in the industry. The technical guidelines developed by ITCO have achieved general acceptance as being the industry standards for safety and operational performance, and ITCO members proudly show the ITCO logo on their websites as a demonstration of the standards being employed.

conclusion

ITCO is constantly striving to improve performance in the areas of safety, sustainability and efficiency. The equipment is manufactured to the highest standards, and the current Digital Twin project is designed to ensure the highest levels of data integrity at the time of custody transfer of equipment between stakeholders in the tank container eco-system. If there are any questions about the safety standards of tank containers, we have attached three photographs





The three photos were taken after the 2015 Tianjin disaster. The photos showed that three tanks had been exposed to extreme heat which completely melted the aluminium walkways, distorted all the carbon steel frame work, and destroyed the insulation material and cladding. Once the tanks had been lifted from the wreckage and taken to a nearby yard they were inspected. The product was still in the tanks and they had not leaked. Although the product inside had been badly damaged by the intense heat, the tank shell had not leaked!

LINK: <https://www.international-tank-container.org/>

