

UNDERGROUND FUEL TANK REMOVAL

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Decommissioned gas-free tanks only · vapour testing before entry · cold cutting and lifting out · contaminated soil and water

KD-RA-GW-004 Rev A0

Statutory basis: DSEAR 2002 for residual fuel and vapour in the tank, its lines, the ground and the excavation; CDM 2015 reg 22(4) — no work in an excavation where any supports or battering have been provided unless it has been inspected by a competent person at the start of the shift — and reg 25(4), suitable and sufficient steps to prevent risk from underground services, with HSE HSG47 (3rd edition, 2014); LOLER 1998 — the lift planned by a competent person, supervised and carried out safely; COSHH 2002 for contaminated soil, water and sludge; the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 regs 12 and 38 for discharges; on a site in England, the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 for what leaves the excavation. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own hazardous waste rules, and Scotland and Northern Ireland their own discharge rules — confirm those that apply to the site. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Excavating round and removing underground fuel and oil storage tanks after a specialist has emptied, cleaned and made them gas-free: confirming the gas-free certificate, exposing the tank and pipework, testing the excavation for fuel vapour, disconnecting and capping lines by cold methods, lifting the tank out, handling contaminated soil, water and residues, and leaving the excavation safe for the verification that follows.

This document does not cover: emptying, cleaning, degassing or filling the tank (the specialist decommissioning contractor), the contamination assessment and remediation strategy (the consultant's), general excavation in contaminated ground (KD-RAMS-GW-007), topsoil and imported soil (KD-RA-EX-002), and any hot cutting — this document allows cold cutting only.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Fire or explosion from residual fuel and vapour in the tank, lines, soil and excavation

At risk: Everyone near the excavation

Controls: Work starts only on a current gas-free certificate from the specialist covering the tank and its lines. Before anyone enters the excavation, and after each stage of digging, its atmosphere is tested for fuel vapour with a detector suited to it; odour, visible product or a reading above the criteria the specialist sets means nobody enters and work stops. As the DSEAR 2002 assessment sets out: no smoking, naked flames, hot work or equipment not rated for the area; cold cutting only — shears, pipe cutters, hand saws, never disc cutters, grinders or burning; plant exhausts kept away from where vapour could collect.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Excavation collapse round the tank; undermining slabs, walls and dispensers

At risk: Operatives, adjacent structures

Controls: Excavation supported or battered as the design requires and inspected by a competent person at the start of every shift before anyone enters; slabs, walls and footings next to the tank checked before they are undermined; nobody in the excavation during the lift.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Striking live services and fill, vent and suction lines

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Service plans and site drawings obtained; fill, vent and suction lines traced to the tank; electrical supplies to pumps and dispensers isolated and locked off before digging; lines and services located by scanning and hand digging as HSG47 sets out.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. The lift — unknown weight, liquid or fill left inside, a corroded shell failing

At risk: Operatives, anyone in the lift area

Controls: Lift planned by a competent person under LOLER 1998, with the weight estimated allowing for sludge, water or fill material left inside; lifting gear attached round sound parts of the shell, never to corroded fittings; exclusion zone for the lift; tank set down on bearers and chocked so it cannot roll.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Skin contact and vapour from fuel-contaminated soil, water and sludge

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Chemical-resistant gloves, disposable overalls and eye protection under the COSHH 2002 assessment; working upwind and outside the excavation; washing facilities used before breaks; no eating in the work area.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

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6. Product, contaminated water and soil escaping

At risk: Ground, groundwater, drains

Controls: Spill kit and absorbent booms on site; water in the excavation pumped to sealed containers or a tanker, never discharged without an environmental permit (EPR 2016 regs 12 and 38); contaminated soil stockpiled on impermeable sheeting and covered.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

7. The tank, residues and contaminated soil leaving site

At risk: The waste chain

Controls: Tank, residues, contaminated water and soil classified and consigned as hazardous waste where they are hazardous, under the rules for the part of the UK the site is in; the tank leaves with its gas-free certificate and never goes to scrap without that paperwork.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. Unexpected finds — further tanks, drums, asbestos cement pipes

At risk: Operatives, the project

Controls: Anything not on the drawings stops the work in that area: withdraw, secure and report. Nothing is opened, moved or cut to find out what it is.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Obtain the tank records, site drawings, contamination information, the specialist's gas-free certificate and the lift plan; where the tank stored petrol, confirm the petroleum enforcing authority has been notified.
- Isolate and lock off electrical supplies to pumps and dispensers; trace fill, vent and suction lines.
- Set up the controlled area, spill kit, impermeable stockpile area, sealed water containers and washing facilities.
- Obtain the permit to dig; locate services and expose lines by hand.
- Excavate round the tank to the support design. Before any entry, the excavation is inspected and its atmosphere tested for fuel vapour; nobody in the excavation during the lift.
- Disconnect and cap lines by cold cutting; confirm tank openings are sealed as the specialist requires.
- Attach lifting gear to sound parts of the shell and lift to the plan; set the tank down on bearers and chock it.
- STOP and withdraw on odour, visible product, a vapour reading above the criteria, an unexpected find or ground movement; report before restarting.
- Pump contaminated water to sealed containers; stockpile contaminated soil on sheeting and cover it.
- Leave the excavation barriered and supported for verification; consign tank, residues and soil with their paperwork.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Excavator rated for lifting duties, or crane, under the lift plan | Chains, slings and spreader to the lift plan |
| Trench support or battering to the design | Spill kit, absorbent booms and sealed containers |
| Gas detector suited to fuel vapour | Impermeable sheeting for stockpiles |
| Hydraulic shears and pipe cutters — cold cutting only | |

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Head protection | Gloves — task-rated | Chemical-resistant gloves and disposable overalls |
| Safety footwear | Eye protection | |
| High visibility | Hearing protection | |

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

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7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-EX-005 — Excavation & Permit to Dig

Before any ground is broken; carries the inspection record.

PERMIT NUMBER

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-LO-008 — Lifting Operations Permit

For lifting the tank out.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-EI-011 — Electrical Isolation Certificate

Isolation of supplies to pumps and dispensers.

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.