Underground Tanks - Overfill Protection

Clause 5 (3) (c) of the Gasoline Handling Code (GHC) states that underground tanks shall be equipped with internal overfill protection devices. The overfill protection device is one of the tank upgrades required by December 31, 1996 as specified in subsection 5 (39) of the GHC.

Overfill protection devices may be one of four types as categorized in the Underwriters’ Laboratories of Canada Standard ULC/ORD - C58.15 - 1992 “Overfill Protection Devices for Flammable Liquid Storage Tanks” as follows:

“An overfill protection device shall be categorized as one of the following:
A) Automatic Sensing Device for interconnection with shut-off equipment at the supply vehicle;
B) Automatic Overfill Shut-off Device of a Float Valve or other mechanical type;
C) Vent Restriction Device; or
D) Overfill Alarm Devices of the Audible or Visual Type.”

An overfill protection device installed in a tank should be compatible with the type of tank filling expected, i.e., standard product delivery and/or pressure delivery. Some overfill protection devices are not listed for pressure delivery. Each device is marked as to its maximum flow and pressure (delivery) limitations. When filling a tank, the overfill protection device manufacturers’ instructions should be followed. Generally, an automatic shut-off nozzle at the end of a supply hose is not listed as an overfill protection device.