

2.5 Oil Storage Tank Location and Fire Protection

2.5.1 External Oil Storage Tank Location

Oil storage tanks should be located in the most unobtrusive position possible having first borne in mind the needs of safety, filling, maintenance and the need, if any, to provide a head of oil for the burner.

The fire protection methods as detailed in this section are based on the requirements of BS 5410 : Part 1, but there may be regional variations, please check with the annexes in the back of this book for any regional variations.

If oil storage tanks are to be installed in areas where there is a high risk of flooding (or exposure to high winds), consideration should be given to the provision of strapping to prevent flotation. A direct result of floatation or the uncontrolled movement of an oil storage tank can damage the oil supply line, which could result in loss of fuel and a pollution incident (see section 2.6.2).

2.5.2 Fire Protection (Diagrams 2.3 to 2.8)

It is considered to be very unlikely that a fire could be started by a domestic oil storage tank and its contents. It needs, however, to be protected from a fire that may originate nearby. For single family dwellings with a boiler output not exceeding 45kW and oil storage tanks with a capacity not exceeding 3500 litres, the oil storage tank should be located not less than 1.8m from a building or structure with any openings (windows and doors), 1.8m away from flue terminations, 1.8m away from non fire rated eaves of a building and 760mm away from a non fire rated boundary.

Where these clearances cannot be achieved, a means of fire protection must be provided as shown in diagrams 2.3 to 2.8.

Any additional special Local Authority or fire protection requirements must also be complied with.

An assessment can be recorded of fire protection requirements for an installation by completion of section 3 of form TI/133D (section P4 of this book).

A non fire rated boundary is defined as being:

1. A boundary marked by a non fire rated fence or wall or hedge of vegetation.
2. A boundary marked by a solid, continuous, fire rated fence or wall which does not extend at least 300mm longer than the oil storage tank at each end and 300mm higher than the oil storage tank for the whole of its length plus 300mm at each end.
3. A boundary which does not incorporate a fence or wall, or is not solid and continuous, and is wholly or in part open to the neighbouring property.

NOTE: Any screening, including plants and foliage used to screen the tank should be kept at least 600mm away from the tank.

For guidance on fire ratings of domestic structures see section 2.4.3.