



Standard Guide for Construction of Sounding Tube and Striker Plate for Tank Sounding¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1386; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers design and construction criteria for striker plates and sounding tubes, excluding deck penetrations and caps, for use with sounding rods or tapes in freshwater, saltwater, and oil tanks.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

A36/A36M Specification for Carbon Structural Steel

A53/A53M Specification for Pipe, Steel, Black and Hot-Dipped, Zinc-Coated, Welded and Seamless

F722 Specification for Welded Joints for Shipboard Piping Systems

F1155 Practice for Selection and Application of Piping System Materials

2.2 ANSI Standards:³

B16.5 Pipe Flanges and Flange Fittings

B16.9 Factory Made Wrought Steel Butt Welding Fittings

B16.11 Forged Steel, Socket Welding and Threaded Fittings

B16.28 Wrought Steel, Butt Welding, Short Radius Elbows and Return

B31.1 Power Piping

2.3 ABS Standard:⁴

American Bureau of Shipping Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels

2.4 AWS Standard:⁵

AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *external sounding tube*—a sounding tube located outside the boundaries of the tank being sounded.

3.1.2 *internal sounding tube*—a sounding tube located inside the tank being sounded.

3.1.3 *sounding*—measurement by sounding; a place or part of a body of liquid where a hand sounding line will reach bottom.

4. Classification

4.1 *Type I*—Internal sounding tube, with separate striker plate.

4.2 *Type II*—Internal sounding tube, with attached striker plate.

4.3 *Type III*—Internal sounding tube, with angle striker plate.

4.4 *Type IV*—External sounding tube.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Sounding tubes may be fabricated from 1½ NPS or larger. Only when otherwise specified, Schedule 40 components, manufactured from the list of material indicated in Practice **F1155** and Specification **A53/A53M**, Grade S or Grade ERW. In addition, sounding tubes may be fabricated in stainless steel for stainless steel tanks.

5.1.1 Sounding tubes passing through or terminating in fuel tanks, potable water tanks, or clean salt water ballast tanks should be constructed of 70-30 copper nickel, but other suitable material is acceptable.

5.2 Striker plates shall be fabricated in accordance with Specification **A36/A36M**.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **F25** on Ships and Marine Technology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **F25.11** on Machinery and Piping Systems.

Current edition approved May 1, 2004. Published May 2004. Originally approved in 1992. Last previous edition approved in 1997 as F1386 - 92 (1997). DOI: 10.1520/F1386-92R04.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

⁴ Available from American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), ABS Plaza, 16855 Northchase Dr., Houston, TX 77060.

⁵ Available from The American Welding Society (AWS), 550 NW LeJeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126.

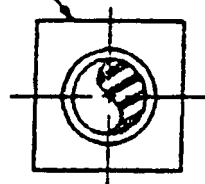
5.3 The fittings shall be designed in accordance with ANSI B16.5, B16.9, B16.28, or B16.11 as applicable (See Table 21 in Practice F1155), and the installation shall be in accordance with ANSI B31.1 as modified by Specification F722. These standards cover the fitting tolerances.

5.4 Some cargo may preclude the use of materials specified in this guide. However, configuration examples are applicable for all applications.

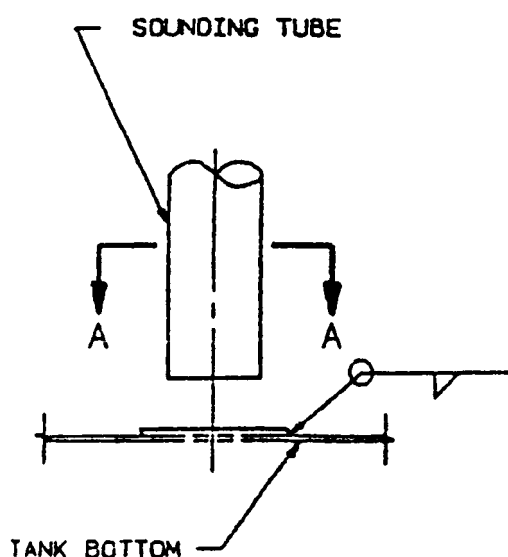
5.5 When a sounding tube is combined with the air escape, either three 1¼-in. (approximately 30-mm) diameter holes approximately 12 in. (305 mm) from the tank top equally spaced or six ½-in. (approximately 15-mm) diameter holes approximately 6 in. (150 mm) from the tank top equally spaced can be used for perforations. See Fig. 2.

5.6 Figs. 1-4 are guidance details.

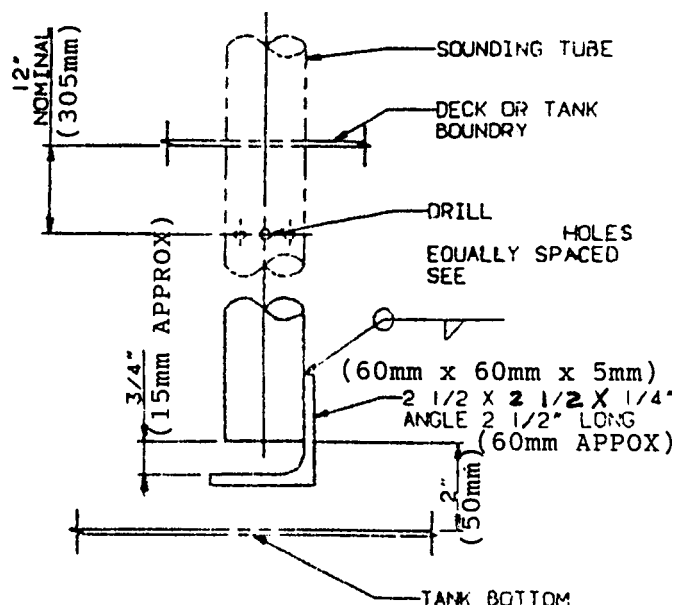
75mm x 75mm x 10mm (APPROX)
3" x 3" x 1/2"
SQUARE STRIKER



SECTION "A-A"



TYPE I
FIG. 1 Type I Sounding Tube



TYPE II
FIG. 2 Type II Sounding Tube

60mm x 60mm x 5mm (APPROX)
2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 1/4"
ANGLE 2 1/2" LONG
60mm (APPROX)

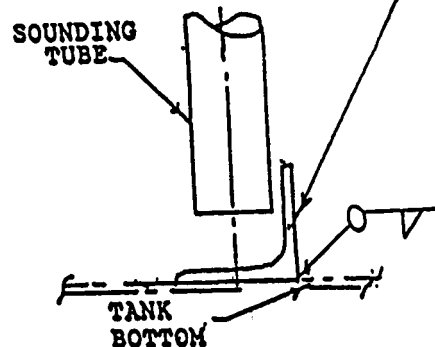


FIG. 3 Type III Sounding Tube

6. Installation of Sounding Tubes

6.1 Locate sounding tubes as close as possible to the lowest part of the tank.

6.2 Type I, II, and III sounding tubes, excluding oil products, shall be perforated as shown in Fig. 1, Fig. 2, and Fig. 3 respectively, for ventilation.

6.2.1 Type IV sounding tubes are only allowed where the tank cannot be penetrated from the top because of an unavoidable situation, such as a prohibitive location (see Fig. 4).

6.3 Slope and curvature shall be kept to a minimum, and under no circumstances shall the slope be permitted to exceed 45° from the vertical. Radius of curvatures up to a minimum of 10 ft (approximately 3 m) will be permitted where unavoidable.