



# U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

## OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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### Memorandum

To: Board Members

From: Steven Messer  
Acting General Counsel

STEVEN  
MESSER

  
Digitally signed by  
STEVEN MESSER  
Date: 2026.01.20  
15:14:09 -05'00'

Cc: Charles Barbee  
Adam Henson  
Leadership Team

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2026-12 | Recommendation to American Petroleum Institute (API) (2007-5-I-TX-R4) from the Valero McKee Refinery Propane Fire investigation (2007-5-I-TX)

Date: January 20, 2026

On January 20, 2026, the Board approved Notation Item 2026-12, thereby designating Recommendation 2007-5-I-TX-R4 to American Petroleum Institute (API) from the Valero McKee Refinery Propane Fire investigation (2007-5-I-TX) with the status of Closed – Acceptable Action.

### Voting Summary – Notation Item 2026-12

**Disposition: APPROVED**

**Disposition date: January 20, 2026**

Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
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S. Johnson	X			1/20/2026
S. Owens	X			1/20/2026



# U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

## RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

### SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Valero McKee Refinery Propane Fire
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2007-5-I-TX-R4
<b>Date Issued:</b>	July 9, 2008
<b>Recipient:</b>	American Petroleum Institute (API)
<b>New Status:</b>	Closed – Acceptable Action
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	January 20, 2026

#### Recommendation Text:

*Revise API Standard 2510, Design and Construction of LPG Installations, and API Publication 2510A, Fire-Protection Considerations for the Design and Operation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Storage Facilities, to address effective deluge system activation during emergencies originating in nearby process units.*

#### Board Status Change Decision:

##### A. Rationale for Recommendation

This recommendation was issued following the propane fire at the Valero McKee refinery near Sun Ray, TX. The CSB's investigation concluded that first responders were not able to activate the deluge system intended to protect spherical tanks storing LPG because the valves to activate the system were too close to the fire. Without deluge protection, the sphere was vulnerable to possible failure through loss of metal strength due to over-temperature. The CSB reviewed available publications by the American Petroleum Institute (API), a trade association that publishes voluntary standards, and found no detailed guidance for refineries to evaluate hazards from nearby units when locating fire water deluge valves. Therefore, the CSB issued a recommendation to API to develop such guidance. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2007-5-I-TX-R4.

##### B. Response to the Recommendation

API published a revision of Fire-Protection Considerations for the Design and Operation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Storage Facilities<sup>1</sup> (API 2510A) during November of 2025. This revision contains guidance on addressing deluge system activation during emergencies originating in nearby process units. API 2510A is a normative reference for Design and Construction of LPG Installations<sup>2</sup> (API 2510). Therefore, API 2510A is considered indispensable in the application of API 2510. As a result, updating API 2510A also effectively updated API 2510. API 2510 was reaffirmed during September of 2025.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.apiwebstore.org/standards/2510A>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.apiwebstore.org/standards/2510>

**C. Board Analysis and Decision**

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2007-5-I-TX-R4 to: "Closed – Acceptable Action."