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	Reviewed by: Sheree Kato	Approved by: Christopher Caliedo

The Tank Cleaning Technician is responsible for cleaning, gas-freeing, decontaminating, and preparing tanks, bilges, voids, and other confined spaces aboard ships, barges, and marine vessels. Work focuses on removing oil, fuel residue, sludge, scale, debris, and other contaminants from cargo tanks, fuel tanks, ballast tanks, bilges, and related spaces so vessels can be safely inspected, repaired, maintained, or returned to service. The role involves physically demanding work in shipyard and shipboard environments with strict adherence to confined-space, gas-free, and maritime safety standards.

Responsibilities:

- Clean and prepare shipboard tanks, voids, bilges, cofferdams, and other confined spaces by removing sludge, oil, fuel residue, water, rust, scale, and debris.
- Perform gas-freeing and ventilation of tanks and spaces; assist with atmospheric testing using gas detection equipment to confirm safe entry conditions.
- Operate high-pressure washers, hydro-blasters, pumps, vacuum systems, air movers, hoses, and hand tools (scrapers, brushes, shovels, squeegees) to flush and scrub tank interiors.
- Drain tanks, transfer liquids and waste, and assist with fuel/oil bunkering or de-bunkering operations as required.
- Enter confined spaces following company and OSHA maritime procedures, including lockout/tagout (LOTO), continuous ventilation, and rescue readiness.
- Handle, contain, and properly dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste in compliance with environmental and maritime regulations.
- Assist with equipment setup and breakdown, hose runs, lighting, and temporary systems; maintain tools and job-site cleanliness.
- Perform final cleaning and close-out of tanks; support quality inspections for cleanliness prior to tank closure or certification.
- Document work performed, complete job hazard analyses/permits, and report issues (damage, leaks, or unsafe conditions) to supervisors.
- Work safely around other shipyard trades and marine operations; respond to call-outs or schedule changes as needed.
- Perform general labor/firewatch tasks as required
- Perform other duties as assigned.

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Skills & Qualifications

- High school diploma or GED preferred (or equivalent experience).
- 1+ years of marine, shipyard, or industrial tank-cleaning experience preferred (entry-level roles often provide training; some senior roles require 3+ years).
- Ability to work in tight, enclosed, and difficult-to-access shipboard spaces; must pass respirator/pulmonary fit tests and medical evaluations.
- Physical capability to lift/carry 50+ lbs, climb ladders, bend, kneel, crawl, stoop, and stand for extended periods in wet, oily, noisy, and outdoor conditions.
- Valid driver's license; ability to obtain TWIC card and, for Navy/shipyard work, DBIDS or equivalent security credentials (U.S. citizenship often required for certain military vessel work).
- Knowledge of or willingness to obtain relevant certifications: Confined Space Entry, OSHA 10 Maritime (preferred), Shipyard Competent Person (SYCP) where applicable, first aid/CPR, and gas detection/respirator use.
- Basic mechanical aptitude for operating pumps, hoses, and cleaning equipment; strong focus on safety and the ability to follow written/oral instructions and work as part of a team.
- Willingness to work varying shifts, overtime, nights, weekends, and potentially travel between shipyard or vessel locations.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and work cross-functionally.
- Demonstrated ability to protect and maintain confidential information
- Successful candidates will be able to work in an environment that utilizes excellent time and stress management skills.
- Be a proactive team player who thrives in a fast-paced environment and works well with diverse teams to achieve shared goals and objectives.
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal background check and drug screening.
- Must be able to complete the respiratory fit/physical test

Physical Demands

- Frequent lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling of equipment and materials (often up to 50 lbs or more)
- Prolonged standing, walking, bending, crouching, kneeling, and climbing
- Ability to work in confined spaces and awkward positions
- Repetitive use of hands, arms, and tools
- Ability to climb ladders and access elevated or below-deck areas
- Capability to work extended hours, including early mornings, nights, or overtime as required

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- Conditions include confined spaces, exposure to petroleum products and residues, heights, all weather, and industrial noise. Full PPE (respirators, chemical-resistant suits, harnesses, etc.) is required.

Work Environment

- Marine, shipyard, dockside, and waterfront settings
- Outdoor work with exposure to weather conditions such as heat, cold, rain, wind, and sun
- Work conducted on and around water, vessels, docks, and heavy machinery
- Noisy environments due to engines, power tools, and marine operations
- Potential exposure to grease, oil, fuel, chemicals, and cleaning agents
- Fast-paced, physically demanding conditions requiring constant safety awareness

Compensation & Benefits

- Competitive wages
- Competitive employee benefit package