CLC Vasche Concrete Tank Protocol



GENERAL CODES FOR APPROPRIATE INSTALLATION, USE AND CLEANING:

1 - Position the tank vertically with the use of a level.

2 - All four corners of the concrete tanks must be in contact with the foundational supports (e.g. concrete pedestals, concrete platforms, etc). In case any corner of the tank is not in contact, insert shims (thin metal or hard plastic is best) until a minimum of 50% of the support is in direct contact with the tank and it is in a level position.

3 - All foundational supports must rest on a solid and level surface.

4 - Use lift lugs provided with tanks for lifting and setting tanks on their stands.

5 - The concrete tanks must be kept indoors. The tanks can only be kept outside if they are protected under a shelter, and remain full of liquid.

6 - Before use, follow the below instructions and test the seals of the tank by filling it to the brim with water.

7 - Make sure the tank does not come in contact with any acidic or corrosive liquids besides the preparation and cleaning protocols with tartaric acid and sodium carbonate.

8 - The top manhole must be kept open while filling and emptying the tank.

9 - When regulating the temperature of the wine do not raise or lower the temperature more than 5°C within 24 hours.

CONCRETE TANK PREPARATION:

1 - Before using the new concrete winemaking tank, a 25% to 30% solution of tartaric acid with non - chlorinated water must be applied with a hand pump or garden sprayer to the interior of the tank (see photo). This operation must be repeated at least 3 times, and at least 24 hours before using the tank for winemaking. As a guideline, a litre of water weighs 1 kg. Therefore, dissolve either 0.25 kg (250 grams) or 0.30 kg (300 grams) of tartaric acid per one litre of water to reach a 25% or 30% tartaric acid solution.



2 - After each tartaric acid application, wait an hour or two for the acid reaction to stabilize, and rinse the inside of the tank with ambient temperature water. Allow to dry before applying any additional coat.

3 - While applying the tartaric acid solution, you can protect the facades or stand of the tank with plastic wrap so as to not cosmetically damage them.

4 - To ensure that the tank is ready for use, throw a cup of a 50% solution of tartaric acid on an interior wall of the tank. If you notice any reaction (bubbling or off-gassing), the tank is not ready for use; in this case, repeat the application of another 25% to 30% tartaric acid solution and test again (rinse the strong acid solution out immediately after the test is concluded).

5 - Tartaric acid containers must be stored in a dry place, protected from frost and at a temperature not exceeding 22°C. The date of manufacture of the tartaric acid should not be more than 4 years old (see indication on container) and once opened, the tartaric acid must be used within 4 months. All open containers must be properly sealed after use. Old or stale tartaric may not properly prepare the tank.

6 - Once the treatments described above have been completed, the tank must be rinsed with water before filling with wine or must.

7 - Always water test any glycol system to ensure no damage occurred during shipment.

CLEANING OF TANKS AFTER USE There are two options, as follows:

A – THE TANK IS WASHED WITH WATER ONLY AND THE TARTATES ARE NOT REMOVED

The tank can then be filled without further treatment.

- 1.) After emptying the tank of wine, must and lees, use water at a lower temperature than 32 C / 90 F. Cold or ambient temperature water is OK too if warm water is not available.
- 2.) It is very important to not suddenly increase the temperature of the water. If you are going to increase the temperature of the water while cleaning the tank, do so very slowly and progressively. Ambient temperature water or lukewarm water is OK.
- 3.) Do not scrub the inside of the tank with a hard brush or use highly pressurized water (never use a pressure washer).

B – THE TANK IS CLEANED AND TARTRATES ARE REMOVED WITH WATER OR BASIC SODIUM CARBONATE SOLUTION

The treatment with tartaric acid (25% to 30%) must be carried out again as indicated because the tartrates have been removed.

- 1.) A 1.5% sodium carbonate solution can be applied via a closed circuit spray ball system, low pressure pump and a solution mixture that is 10% of the tank's volume for an hour.
- 2.) Make the pump operate at a very low pressure and make sure that the spray ball is very gently applying the solution to the side walls of the tank and not eroding the inside of the tank.
- 3.) Never use citric acid, sulfur, or other acidic cleaners or sanitizers; only pH basic products.

C -- ALWAYS THOROUGHLY DRY THE CLEANED TANK AND KEEP IT OPEN AND VENTILATED WHEN NOT FILLED

Using a fan to initially dry the tank is a good idea; as is leaving the top lid and side hatch/valves at least partially open.

Enjoy your CLC Vasche Concrete Tanks!