



Potential Environmental Impacts

Petroleum storage tanks have the potential to leak into the environment. Just one gallon of gasoline can contaminate the water supply for 50,000 people and is toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Ignitable vapors from leaking tanks can collect in places such as basements or sewers, potentially causing fires or explosions. Gasoline vapors also contain significant amounts of air toxics, including VOCs (volatile organic compounds) which negatively affect our air quality.



Removal of soil contaminated by a leaking underground storage tank

Legal Requirements

Underground Petroleum Storage

Petroleum tanks with 10% or more of total volume below grade (including the volume of connected underground pipes) are considered Underground Storage Tank systems (USTs) and must meet certain requirements. For vehicle service operations, regulated tanks include gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, and used oil USTs of any size. Heating oil USTs used solely for on-site are also subject to some of the UST requirements. Oil/water separators are not subject to UST requirements but must be in compliance with all applicable standards for the management of wastewater (see the Shop Wastewater fact sheet). The UST requirements are summarized below:

UST Installation and Operation

- 1) The tanks must be constructed of fiberglass-reinforced plastic or steel with manufacturer applied anti-corrosive coating and cathodic protection, or be a composite or jacketed tank certified to meet UL Standard 1746 or the ACT-100. The piping must be constructed of fiberglass-reinforced plastic or steel with manufacturer applied anti-corrosive coating and cathodic protection, or be flexible or semi flexible plastic. UST systems must be installed according to manufacturer's specifications.
- 2) As of October 1, 2003, all new tanks and piping must be double-walled and have continuous interstitial monitoring.
- 3) The facility must have an approved method of leak detection for both tank and piping and records must be maintained for at least 5 years beyond the operational life of the UST system.
- 4) UST systems equipped with cathodic protection must be tested within 6 months of installation and at least annually thereafter. Additionally, impressed current cathodic protection systems require monthly inspections of rectifier current and voltage output.
- 5) Fill-pipes on tanks must have means to collect spills from delivery hoses unless the UST system is filled by transfers of no more than 25 gallons at one time.

- 6) The tanks must have overfill protection, such as automatic shutoff devices which activate at 95% UST capacity or restrict flow during deliveries at 90% full or trigger a high level alarm unless the UST system is filled by transfers of no more than 25 gallons at one time.
- 7) As of August 8, 2012, newly installed motor fuel UST systems must have liquid tight piping containment sumps and liquid tight under-dispenser containment sumps, both equipped with sensors. These requirements may also apply when significant upgrades are performed, such as replacing more than 50% of a facility's dispensers.
- 8) Operators of UST systems are required to be trained. A list of approved courses and exams is available on the [DEEP UST webpage](#).
- 9) Manual tank gauging may continue to be used for tanks with a capacity of 550 gallons or less (e.g., waste oil) unless they were installed on or after October 1, 2003.
- 10) USTs must be registered with DEEP when installed by submitting the Underground Storage Tank [Notification Form](#) (DEP-UST-NOT-001) or by using [EZFile](#).
- 11) All heating oil tanks installed on or after November 1, 1985 are required to be corrosion-protected. If they were installed on or after October 1, 2003, they must be double-walled. Heating oil tanks that are less than 2100 gallons capacity are exempt from registration, inventory control, life expectancy determination and failure detection testing at the end of life expectancy. State and local fire marshals can enforce the fire codes which include installation of spill and overfill prevention equipment.
- 12) All USTs not meeting these requirements must be properly closed. Failure to properly close non-upgraded USTs can result in monetary fines.

UST Reporting and Record Keeping

- 1) You must submit the following information to DEEP:
 - Annual registration with fee using the Underground Storage Tank [Notification Form](#) (DEP-UST-NOT-001) or [EZFile](#):
 - Reports of all suspected releases and corrective actions.
 - Notification before permanent closure or change-in-service. Sampling under the tank, lines and dispensers is also required at time of closure. If contamination is discovered, it must be reported immediately to the DEEP and corrective action reports must be submitted.
- 2) You must keep and maintain the following records at the UST site and make them immediately available for inspection by DEEP:
 - Copies of all Notification Forms.
 - Documentation of annual tests of corrosion protection equipment.
 - Documentation of UST system repairs.
 - Documentation of compliance with release detection requirements.
 - Results of the site investigation conducted at permanent closure.

- 3) These records must be maintained at the UST site for at least five years beyond the operational life of the UST system. Records, if greater than 5 years old, or with written approval by the DEEP Commissioner, may be kept at an alternative site, but must be made immediately available to DEEP inspectors upon request. Owners or operators of more than 10 facilities have additional limited off-site record storage options.

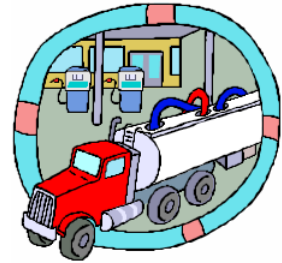
For more information, visit DEEP's [UST webpage](#) or contact the Storage Tank Program at DEEP.USTfee@ct.gov or 860-424-3374.

Aboveground Petroleum Storage

If your facility stores oil (includes any kind or form, including gasoline) in aboveground tank(s) with a total aggregate volume of over 1,320 gallons (containers of less than 55 gallons are exempt) it may require a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan. The SPCC Plan outlines a facility's oil containment systems and procedures to prevent spills and contingency plans in case of spills. (See the SPCC Plans Fact Sheet for more information.) The aboveground storage tank should be located within a dike or over an impervious storage area with containment volumes equal to 110% of the capacity of the storage tank.

Gasoline Vapor Recovery

Gasoline vapors contain significant amounts of air toxics, including volatile organic compounds. To help control emissions, regulations requiring vapor recovery systems were implemented, some of which were recently changed.



Submerged Fill Pipe: Any gasoline storage tank with a capacity of 250 gallons or more must be equipped with a permanent submerged fill pipe (aka drop tube) unless it is a pressure “tank.” Submerged fill pipes installed on or prior to March 7, 2014 must have a discharge point no more than 18 inches from the bottom of the storage tank or be compliant with the requirements of [40 CFR 63 Subpart CCCCCC](#). Submerged fill pipes installed after March 7, 2014 must have a discharge point no more than six inches from the bottom of the storage tank.

Stage I: Stage I vapor recovery systems are required at dispensing stations with gasoline storage tanks having a capacity of 250 gallons or more and a gasoline throughput of 10,000 gallons or more per 30 day rolling period. These systems enable gasoline tanker trucks to capture the vapors displaced from USTs during the delivery of gasoline so they can be returned to the terminal for processing. Owners of gasoline dispensing facilities with required Stage I vapor recovery systems must notify DEEP prior to conducting the required annual pressure decay, tank tie, and P/V vent cap tests.

Note: Gasoline dispensing stations may be subject to additional requirements set forth by the U.S. EPA's regulation [40 CFR Part 63 Subpart CCCCCC](#). There are different requirements based on the monthly throughput levels. For more information about the specific federal requirements, go to [Summary of Regulations Controlling Air Emissions from Gasoline Dispensing Facilities](#).

Stage II: vapor recovery: Gasoline stations that dispensed more than 10,000 gallons of gasoline per month were required to install Stage II vapor recovery systems on gasoline pumps in order to recover vapors when vehicles are refueled. Because newer vehicles have on-board vapor recovery systems, Stage II vapor recovery systems are no longer required and all existing Stage II systems must be removed on or before July 1, 2015. Stations with existing Stage II systems must comply with the current requirements until their systems are removed. Additionally, if they were required to have a Stage II system installed, they must notify DEEP prior to the removal and testing of that system. Please see DEEP's website for more information and to obtain the forms necessary to complete the decommissioning.

More on [vapor recovery requirements](#) can be found on DEEP's website or contact DEEP's Bureau of Air Management at 860-424-4152.

Additional Information

- ◆ **Financial Responsibility:** Owners and operators of USTs must demonstrate financial ability to respond in the event of a release. The UST Petroleum Clean-Up Program can no longer be used to demonstrate financial responsibility. More information on other mechanisms to meet this requirement is available on [DEEP's UST webpage](#).
- ◆ **MTBE:** The use of MTBE in gasoline was banned in Connecticut in 2004 and fuel suppliers replaced it with ethanol. Nevertheless, MTBE remains a ground water contaminant at gas station sites as well as other sites in the State. Find more information on [MTBE](#) on the DEEP website or call DEEP's Bureau of Air Management at 860-424-4152.
- ◆ **Gas Cans:** All portable fuel containers sold in Connecticut must meet certain "no-spill" requirements. For more information about gas cans, visit the [DEEP website](#) or call DEEP's Bureau of Air Management at 860-424-4152.
- ◆ **Spills:** Any spill or release of oil or petroleum product, chemical or waste must be reported to the DEEP's Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division at 860-424-3338. See the Spill Reporting Fact Sheet for more information on the requirements.

A hazardous waste determination must be conducted on any materials resulting from the clean-up of a spill to determine whether or not disposal of the materials is subject to hazardous waste regulations. See Appendix A for information on hazardous waste determinations.

- ◆ **EPCRA:** If your facility stores 10,000 pounds or more of gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, ethylene glycol, kerosene, and/or fuel oil, either above- or underground for dispensing or for on-site use, you may have to report storage of that substance under EPCRA (The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986). For specific reporting requirements, see Appendix B.

Legal References

Underground Storage Tanks

- Requirements - [RCSA Section 22a-449\(d\)-1](#) and [RCSA Sections 22a-449\(d\) 101-113](#)
- Requirement for double-walled underground storage tanks - [CGS Sections 22a-449o](#)
- Storage of underground storage tank system records - [CGS Section 22a-449q](#)

- Annual Registration and Fee - [CGS Section 22a-449 \(e\)](#)
- Tank Closure: [RCSA Section 22a-449\(d\)-107](#)

Above Ground Storage Tanks

- Oil Pollution Prevention - [40 CFR 112.1](#)

Vapor Recovery

- Control of organic compound emissions - [RCSA Section 22a-174-20\(a\)\(3\)](#),
- Dispensing of Gasoline, Stage I and Stage II vapor recovery - [RCSA Sections 22a-174-30](#); [40 CFR Part 63 Subpart CCCCC](#)
- Decommissioning of Stage II vapor recovery, Stage I pressure decay testing – [Public Act 13-120](#)

Spill Clean-up

- Report of discharge, spill, loss, seepage or filtration - [CGS Section 22a-450](#)
- Hazardous Waste Determination - [RCSA Section 22a-449\(c\)-102\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)](#); [40 CFR 262.11](#)

Best Management Practices

- ★ Keep all information about registered underground storage tanks on file in a central location at the UST site.
- ★ Remove debris (e.g., leaf litter, sand) regularly from the spill bucket surrounding the fill pipe. If liquid petroleum does spill from the hose into the bucket during delivery or removal, a clean spill bucket will allow for the material to be drained back into the tank.
- ★ If possible, cover the outdoor aboveground tanks with a roof to prevent rainwater from filling the containment area.

Pollution Prevention Checklist

- ✓ Is debris regularly removed from the spill bucket to prevent contamination?
 - ✓ Are outdoor aboveground tanks covered to prevent rainwater from filling the containment area?
-



Did You Know?

Your business could incur substantial economic loss as a result of a leaking tank piping including loss of property value from contamination and the expense of cleanup.

DISCLAIMER: This guidance is a tool to help you evaluate compliance at your facility. It is not a complete list of all regulations and requirements that may apply to your business. You are responsible for knowing and complying with all updated applicable state, federal, local and tribal requirements. Please be aware that environmental laws and regulations, as well as process technology may have changed significantly since these were published. Please do not rely on them for current information, but rather to provide background information.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention, 860-424-3297. Published 2014, Links updated January 2023
[Vehicle Repair and Body Shops P2 Fact Sheet Index](#)