

Important Changes to Underground Storage Tank Requirements

Changes to Virginia's Underground Storage Tank Technical regulation and Financial Responsibility regulation will become effective on January 1, 2018. Some requirements will become effective immediately, while others will become effective on January 1, 2021.

Requirements effective on January 1, 2018

Overfill Prevention

Ball float valves (flow restrictors) will no longer be an option for new USTs or as replacements when a ball float valve fails. Owners must install a different type of overfill prevention device, such as a shut off valve in fill pipes or alarms.

Spill Prevention and Containment Sumps

Spill buckets will need to be tested for tightness at the time of installation and every 3 years thereafter. Containment sumps (including UDCs) used as part of an interstitial monitoring system must also be tested for tightness at the time of installation and every 3 years thereafter.

Release Detection

- Site assessments conducted after January 1, 2018 for groundwater or vapor monitoring release detection methods must be signed by a professional engineer or geologist.

Corrosion Protection

- Tanks and piping that are not protected against corrosion by January 1, 2018 will need to be permanently closed.
- A tank owner/operator must permanently close any tank with an internal liner that is no longer performing in accordance with the original design specifications and the liner cannot be repaired in accordance with industry standards.

Secondary Containment

- All newly installed tanks and piping must be secondarily contained; there will no longer be a community water supply distance exemption.

Repairs

- Repaired equipment must be tested following the repair.
- Repair records must be kept until the UST system is permanently closed or undergoes a change in service.

Compatibility

- Tank owners will need to notify DEQ at least 30 days prior to storing biofuels containing greater than 10% ethanol or greater than 20% biodiesel.
- Tank owners must demonstrate that their equipment is compatible with the fuel stored if storing biofuels.

Temporarily Closed Tanks

- Tank owners must demonstrate financial responsibility for temporarily closed tanks.

Airport Hydrant Fuel Systems (AHFS) and Field Constructed USTs

- Effective immediately: Release reporting and closure requirements, if applicable.
- AHFS's and Field Constructed USTs installed after January 1, 2018 must submit notification and financial responsibility documentation at installation.

Requirements effective on January 1, 2021

Release Detection

- Emergency generator tanks installed prior to 9/15/2010 will need to perform release detection. Those installed on or after 9/15/2010 must meet all applicable requirements at installation.
- Release detection equipment must be tested for proper operation annually.
- Tank owners must annually test the operation of electronic automatic line leak detectors by simulating a leak and ensuring the leak detector can detect leaks of three gallons per hour at 10 psi within one hour.
- Site assessment records required for groundwater and vapor monitoring release detection must be retained as long as the methods are used.

Equipment Testing

- By 1/1/21 and every 3 years thereafter, tightness testing must be conducted on secondary containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring, unless they are double-walled and interstitially monitored every 30 days.
- By 1/1/21 and every 3 years thereafter, tightness testing must also be conducted on spill prevention devices (buckets) unless they are double-walled and interstitially monitored.
- By 1/1/21 and every 3 years thereafter, a functionality test must be conducted on overfill prevention devices.

Walkthrough Inspections

- Every 30 days, tank owners/operators must inspect for damage and proper operation spill buckets, fill pipes and caps, interstitial areas of double-walled spill buckets, and release detection equipment.
Note: If deliveries occur at intervals greater than every 30 days, the spill buckets only need to be checked prior to each delivery.
- Annually, tank owners/operators must inspect all containment sumps, under-dispenser containment, interstitial areas of double-walled containment sumps, and handheld release detection equipment for damage, operability, and leaks (if applicable).

Airport Hydrant Fuel Systems (AHFS) and Field Constructed Tanks

- Airport hydrant fuel distribution systems (AHFS) and field constructed tanks (FCTs) must begin conducting release detection.
- AHFS's and FCTs must be protected against corrosion.
- Operator Training requirements become applicable.
- A one-time notification form (Form 7530) must be filed with DEQ.
- Financial Responsibility must be demonstrated.
- Other operability requirements become effective.

The information contained in this handout is a summary of the changes. Please review the regulation for detailed requirements. The final regulation can be found at

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/landprotectionrevitalization/petroleumprogram.aspx> .

For additional information please submit questions to tank@deq.virginia.gov or call:

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