

# INTRODUCTION

## MAINE'S TankSmart CLASS A/B UST SYSTEM OPERATOR TRAINING MANUAL

**U**nderground oil storage facilities can be sources of leaks and spills that can put the environment and public health at risk from petroleum contamination. A facility that is properly operated and maintained by a knowledgeable person is less likely to have an accidental release of petroleum to the environment.

The 2005 Federal Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act requires that each federally regulated underground storage tank (UST) have a properly trained and certified operator by August 8, 2012. However, Maine law required the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a program to train owners and operators of federally regulated underground oil storage tanks by August 8, 2009.

The Maine DEP will be proposing rules regarding its operator training program requirements in 2010. The proposal will include deadlines for operators to complete the *TankSmart* training program. When the rule is formally proposed, the proposal will be available for 30 days to provide an opportunity for comments. For more information on Maine's operator training program and rules, call the DEP at 207-287-2651 and ask for someone in the Underground Tanks Unit.

In response to the federal rule, the DEP developed the *TankSmart* program to train persons who operate UST facilities in the state. The program enables facility operators to learn how to properly operate and maintain their equipment in compliance with Maine's Ground Water Protection laws and the DEP's Rules for Underground Oil Storage Facilities. Both online and print versions of *TankSmart* were developed to meet the diverse needs of Class A/B UST operators in Maine. Anyone who wishes to serve as a Class A/B operator must pass Maine DEP's UST Operator Examination.

**This print version of Maine's *TankSmart* Class A/B UST System Operator Training Manual was developed to:**

- ▶ **Provide the *TankSmart* training program to operators who do not have access to online training**
- ▶ **Provide easily accessible reference material to all UST facility operators**
- ▶ **Provide owners and operators with informational materials that can be tailored to their facilities**

**An underground oil storage facility that is properly operated and maintained by a knowledgeable person is less likely to have an accidental release of petroleum to the environment.**

**Class A/B UST operators should know the basics of how their equipment works.**



Courtesy of Marcel Moreau Associates, Portland Maine.

Each facility in Maine must have a minimum of one certified Class A/B operator and one Class C operator.

## WHO MUST BE TRAINED AND CERTIFIED?

The Federal Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act established three categories of UST operators—Class A, B, and C.

**Class A Operator** – responsible for the overall UST facility, and may manage employees who are responsible for operating and maintaining the facility.

**Class B Operator** – responsible for operation, maintenance, and record keeping at the UST facility on a day-to-day basis.

**Class C Operator** – must be trained to know what actions to take in response to a leak alarm or an emergency, such as a spill at the facility.

Maine has combined the responsibilities of the Class A and Class B operators into a single category called Class A/B (see the *TankSmart* Class A/B Operators module). Each facility in Maine must have a minimum of one certified Class A/B operator and one Class C operator. Class A/B operators in Maine may also serve as the Class C operator if they can meet the Class C requirements (see the *TankSmart* Training Class C Operators module).

## HOW DOES TANKSMART WORK?

*TankSmart* is an Internet- and print-based training service that allows operators of registered oil storage tank facilities in Maine to achieve their Class A/B operator certification. You may obtain individual certifications for specific facilities by taking the modules applicable to each facility. If you want certification to operate any facility, take all of the modules and you will receive certification as a “General Operator.”

Both the online and print versions of *TankSmart* are organized into 27 individual modules. The modules that apply to your facility will be automatically assigned to you by the online *TankSmart* program, based on the information contained on your facility’s registration form.

To obtain a copy of the print version of *TankSmart*, contact the DEP by phone (207-287-2651) or mail (Tanks Unit, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333), and DEP personnel will provide you with the printed versions of the *TankSmart* modules that apply to the facility or facilities you operate. (The package you receive from the DEP will include a table of contents indicating the modules that apply to you, based on your tank registration information.)

You may take the exam and obtain certification for a specific facility, or for all the facilities for which you are responsible. Anyone can take the training, even if you do not need certification as an UST operator. You can view the training information for as many, or as few, topics as you wish; however, it is important that you review at least the *TankSmart* modules applicable to your facility.

**TankSmart** is a free, Internet- and print-based training service that allows operators of registered oil storage tank facilities in Maine to achieve their Class A/B operator certification.

Once you have studied either the online or the print version of *TankSmart* and feel you are ready, you should go online to take the test. If you do not have Internet access, you may be able to access the Internet at a local library. If you are having problems accessing the online exam, call the Underground Tanks Unit at 207-287-2651 for assistance. After passing the exam, you will be able to print a certificate to show that you are an official UST operator in Maine.

Your *TankSmart* Class A/B certification must be renewed annually, which means you must take the exam over again each year.



Courtesy of Marcel Moreau Associates, Portland, Maine.

**An UST operator should know how to properly respond to alarms.**

**NOTE:** Although the *TankSmart* program is designed for operators of underground oil storage facilities, the *TankSmart* Operator Certification Program is available to anyone free of charge.

### What You Will Need

In order to use the online facility training and operator certification service, users will need to log in with the following information:

- Facility registration number (not applicable for General Operators who wish to be able to operate any facility)
- Your legal name

Your computer must have the free Adobe Reader software required to view/print registration certificate.

Your  
**TankSmart**  
Class A/B  
certification must  
be renewed  
annually, which  
means you must  
take the exam  
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year.

**To access the online version of *TankSmart*, go to:**

[www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/ust/tanksmartonlineservice.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/ust/tanksmartonlineservice.htm)

Click on

***TankSmart the Oil Storage Tank Search & Operator Training Online Service***

**You may also download and print the complete print version of *TankSmart* from this Internet site.**

Click on

***TankSmart in Print***

**To start the print version of *TankSmart*, simply turn the page.**