



What Owners & Operators of Underground Oil Storage Tank (UST) Facilities Need to Know

Tank Registration: Tank owners must notify the Department of Environmental Protection within 10 business days when registration information changes. This includes ownership and operator changes, going temporarily out-of-service, or returning to service. Your facility's registration is available at: www.maine.gov/cgj-bin/online/tanksmart/index.cgj, click on "Search Registered Tanks."

Leak Detection Method: The method of leak detection for your facility will depend whether the tank and piping are single or double-walled. Be aware of what method(s) you are required to use and what constitutes evidence of a possible leak.

Reporting Requirements: Maine law provides that oil spills that are promptly reported and removed to the Commissioners satisfaction may not be the subject of civil penalties. The Spill Reporting Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-482-0777.

Spill Log: A provision of Maine law that applies only to UST facilities allows that surface spills of less than 10 gallons on a **paved, concrete or asphalt surface** that do not reach groundwater or surface water and that are cleaned up within 24 hours can be recorded in your spill log to fulfill your reporting requirement.

Spill Clean-up: Your facility should have an emergency action plan that describes what an operator must do should a spill occur. Spill-response procedures should include the following actions: Clean up all leaks, drips, and spills immediately; Keep appropriate spill cleanup materials handy at all times; Know who to contact (e.g., Maine DEP, fire department); Maintain a written log of all oil spills under 10 gallons on an impervious surface that are promptly cleaned up.

Evidence of a Possible Leak: Evidence of a possible leak must be reported to the Department within 24 hours of discovery. This includes, for example, monitoring system alarms for water or oil in a piping sump or interstitial space, monthly reconciled daily inventory in which "over and shorts" are greater than 1% of throughput, pump hesitation/slow flow, or other incidents outlined in the Department's rules. Call the Tanks Unit at 287-7688 to report evidence of a possible leak.

Out of Service Tanks: A UST is considered out-of-service (OOS) when it is neither receiving nor dispensing fuel. Please contact the Department or check out the "*Out of Service Facilities*" module in TankSmart for specific instructions for placing a tank OOS, as well as bringing a tank back into service. Not following Department Rules for OOS tanks may result in not being able to bring tanks back into service.

Annual Inspections: A **passing** annual inspection must be submitted to the Department every twelve months. The inspection must be conducted by a Maine Certified Underground Oil Storage Tank Installer or Inspector. The owner is responsible to contract for and submit the annual inspection within 30 days of its completion. For a complete list of Certified Installers and Inspectors go to: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/busti/certifiedlist.html>

DEP Compliance Inspections: Compliance inspections are conducted by DEP staff. The staff prioritizes inspections based on facility compliance history, last DEP inspection date and other factors. Inspections include a review of applicable records, inspection of tank, piping, and dispensing equipment, and an opportunity for facility operators to discuss their facility and any potential violations with Department staff. The Department may issue a Notice of Violation if compliance problems are found. ***This inspection does not substitute for the annual inspection that is done by a Certified Tank Installer or Inspector.***

TankSmart is a free, online program that provides training for operators of facilities that market and distribute motor fuels as required by the 2005 Federal UST Compliance Act. It provides detailed information about all of the items listed above and can answer many of the questions that new owners may have about operation of a UST facility. It can be accessed at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/tanksmart/index.html>. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Department at 287-7688 and ask for Tanks Unit staff.