

## Do You Have USTs?

Even though you do not sell petroleum products, you may rely on your own supply of gasoline or diesel. For example, you may fuel taxis, limousines, trucks, vans, boats, heavy equipment, or a wide range of other vehicles from your own underground storage tanks. Or you may have underground storage tanks holding either used oil or fuel used to run emergency power generators.

**If you store petroleum in underground storage tanks (USTs), you need to take timely action to make sure you are in full compliance with UST requirements.** Some USTs do not need to comply with federal UST requirements, as noted in the next column.

Federal and state UST requirements not only protect the environment and human health, they can protect your assets. Costs to clean up a leaking UST site can exceed \$1 million. Liability costs can be equally high. Protect your interests by knowing what the UST requirements are and what actions you can take.

As an UST owner or operator, it is your legal responsibility to comply with all federal and state requirements for proper UST management and cleanup. Federal requirements are briefly noted in the next column. See the back of this leaflet for information on ordering publications that fully describe federal UST requirements.

## Exceptions To Compliance

Your USTs do not need to meet federal UST requirements if they are: USTs storing *heating oil* used on the premises where it is stored; USTs of 1,100 gallons or less capacity holding motor fuel used for noncommercial purposes on *farms*; USTs on or above the floor of underground areas, such as basements or tunnels; and tanks of 110 gallons or smaller.

Also, *airports* using hydrant fueling systems need to comply only with federal corrective action requirements. USTs used for *emergency generators* do not need to comply with release detection requirements, but must comply with other federal UST requirements.

## What Are UST Requirements?

Compliance with these requirements will make sure your USTs are properly equipped, monitored, and maintained to avoid costly contamination of the environment. Federal law requires that:

- # USTs installed after December 1988 need to meet standards for spill, overfill, and corrosion protection *when they are installed*; and
- # USTs installed before December 1988 must meet standards for spill, overfill, and corrosion protection *by December 1998*. If not, these USTs must be replaced or closed properly.

In addition, all federally regulated USTs need to comply with existing requirements for notification, release detection, corrective action, and financial responsibility.

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*Be sure you check with state and local regulatory authorities, because their requirements for USTs may differ from federal requirements.*

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## Do You Need Your USTs?

If you could be sure you would have access to fuel 24-hours a day at a conveniently located station, would you still need your USTs? Such an arrangement would enable you to avoid the cost of operating and maintaining UST systems and bringing them into compliance. In addition, the billing systems now used by many motor fuel suppliers may enable you to track fuel usage more closely than you do at your on-site facility.

Another option is consolidation of your own and other companies' refueling facilities at a single site convenient for all your vehicles. This site could have unattended fuel pumps activated by key cards, so that you would receive detailed records of refueling by your employees.

These options can reduce or eliminate your responsibility for petroleum releases, costly cleanups, and liability insurance. In addition, if you remove all your USTs in favor of off-site refueling, you will also avoid some of the environmental concerns that sometimes block property transfers or make bankers reluctant to lend money.

However, you will need to close your USTs properly and safely as required by federal and state UST requirements.

## Do You Need All Your USTs?

Do you need as much storage capacity as you now have? Do you have two tanks—in case of delivery delays or some other problem—when one would be enough under normal conditions? Rather than maintaining two or more tanks and bearing the cost of bringing all of them into compliance, why not keep just one and make an arrangement with a nearby service station to refuel your vehicles when necessary?

## Need Information On USTs?

To order free publications, get more information about UST requirements, or identify state regulatory authorities call **EPA's toll-free Hotline at 800-424-9346**.

Remember, requirements and deadlines may be different in some states, so check with your state UST program office.

You can also find UST publications, links to state regulatory authorities, and other information on USTs at EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/OUST/>.

Here are descriptions of some of the EPA publications you may find useful:

### **Musts For USTs: A Summary Of Federal Regulations For USTs**

Comprehensive and easy-to-read summary of federal UST requirements for installation; release detection; spill, overfill, and corrosion protection; corrective action; closure; reporting; and record-keeping. [36 pages] Also available in Spanish as **Normas Y Procedimientos Para T.S.A.**

### **Closing USTs: Brief Facts**

Trifold leaflet presents "brief facts" on properly closing USTs in order to comply with federal closure requirements.

### **Dollars And Sense: Financial Responsibility Requirements For USTs**

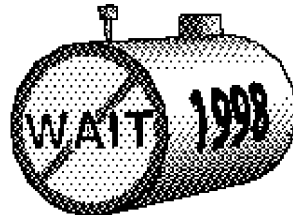
Clear explanation of the "financial responsibility" required of UST owners and operators by federal UST regulations. [16 pages]

### **Don't Wait Until 1998: Spill, Overfill, And Corrosion Protection For USTs**

Easy-to-read booklet explains how UST owners and operators can comply with the 1998 deadline for upgrading, replacing, or closing USTs installed before December 1988. Booklet surveys spill, overfill, and corrosion protection equipment and methods, as well as replacement and closure options, and provides a quick compliance checklist. [16 pages] Also available in Spanish as **No Espere Hasta El 1998**.

### **Straight Talk On Tanks: Leak Detection Methods For Petroleum USTs And Piping**

Easy-to-read booklet describes the basic requirements for federally allowed release detection methods: secondary containment with interstitial monitoring, automatic tank gauging systems, vapor monitoring, groundwater monitoring, statistical inventory reconciliation, tank tightness testing with inventory control, manual tank gauging, and leak detection for underground piping. [28 pages]



# Underground Storage Tanks Requirements And Options

