



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

New Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks

OFFICE OF LAND QUALITY

(317) 232-8603 • (800) 451-6027

www.idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Description:

- An Underground Storage Tank (UST) is a tank that holds greater than 110 gallons and any underground piping connected to the tank, with at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground. For farms and residential USTs, the capacity is greater than 1,100 gallons.
- USTs are generally made from steel or fiberglass and contain regulated substances such as petroleum products or hazardous substances.

Public and Environmental Impacts:

- Faulty installation, corrosion, or inadequate operation and maintenance procedures can cause USTs to release their contents into the environment, thus becoming Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs).
- Compliance with UST regulations is important for preventing the release of petroleum and hazardous substances into the environment, preventing contamination to soil and groundwater, and preventing other health and environmental risks, including the potential for fire and explosion.

IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM is responsible for ensuring that all regulated underground storage tanks meet requirements for release detection, spill and overflow prevention, and corrosion protection. Through inspections and document review, IDEM works to ensure that tanks not meeting those requirements are brought into compliance or closed.
- IDEM regulates USTs owned and operated by both businesses and private individuals. IDEM is responsible for tracking UST facilities, inspecting UST facilities every three years, and implementing enforcement actions.

Owner's Roles:

- **Notification** - Within 30 days of UST ownership, property transfers, or bringing a system into use, the owner is required to notify IDEM by using *State Form (45223) Notification for Underground Storage Tanks*.
- **Fee Payment** - Owners of USTs are required to pay annual UST fees in the amounts of \$90.00 per petroleum tank and \$245.00 per hazardous substance tank. These fees are divided among three funds: the Excess Liability Trust Fund, the Petroleum Trust Fund, and the Hazardous Substance Trust Fund. These funds provide financial assurance for tank owners and operators, cleanup costs, administrative costs, and state-funded cleanup of leaking or abandoned petroleum USTs.
- **UST System Compliance**
 - **Leak Detection** - A method or combination of methods of leak detection (also called release detection) is required at all times for the UST and the associated piping. Routine testing and recordkeeping are also required. Acceptable leak detection methods include automatic tank gauging systems, vapor monitoring, ground water monitoring, statistical inventory reconciliation, and other methods that meet performance standards.
 - **Secondary Containment for Tanks and Piping** - After July 1, 2007, all newly installed or replaced tanks and piping connected to the tank must meet the secondary containment requirements, including

interstitial monitoring, as described in the rule for Underground Storage Tanks (found in Title 329, Article 9 of the Indiana Administrative Code [329 IAC 9]). The rule also requires under dispenser containment.

- **Spill and Overfill Prevention**
 - **Spill** - The owner and operator must ensure that spills do not occur. The owner/operator must have a spill catchment basin that can contain five gallons if the product drains back into the tank, and a 25-gallon catchment basin when the product does not drain back into the tank.
 - **Overfill** - The UST system owner and operator must have overfill protection. Some of the methods of overfill protection are automatic shut off devices, overfill alarms and ball float valves. Most of these methods are included upon new tank installation.
- **Cathodic Protection Compliance and Testing** - Owners and operators of steel UST systems are required to operate and maintain a form of corrosion protection according to 329 IAC 9-3.1-2. Corrosion inspection and testing is required every three years.
- **Reporting** - Reporting is required for notification of UST system installation, change of ownership, change in service, and closure. Owners and operators are required to report suspected and confirmed releases within 24 hours of discovery.
- **Recordkeeping** - Maintaining records is required. Owners and operators are required to allow IDEM inspectors to review the previous 12 months of monitoring results, manufacturer's performance claims, maintenance, repairs, upgrades, inspection and testing of a corrosion protection system, and financial responsibility records.
- **Financial Responsibility Compliance** - Owners must demonstrate compliance with financial responsibility requirements to ensure that, in the event of a leak or spill, an owner or operator will have the resources to pay for costs associated with cleaning up releases and compensating third parties.
- **Operator Training Compliance** - Owners and operators must be trained and certified by IDEM in UST system operation and maintenance and release reporting. IDEM is providing [free training](#) for UST owners and operators.
- **Inspections** - Owners and operators must allow IDEM inspectors access under Indiana Code (IC) 13-14-2-2 to enter private or public property to inspect for and investigate possible violations.

More Information:

- For additional information about UST regulations and to take the free Operator Training, visit IDEM's UST website at www.IN.gov/idem/4999.htm or contact staff by calling (317) 234-4112 or emailing USTreferrals@idem.IN.gov.
- For more information on federal UST programs and regulations, please visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) website at www.epa.gov/oust/.
- To report a release:
 - Call (317) 232-8900 during normal business hours or (888) 233-7745 after hours; or
 - Email completed Initial Incident Report Form 54487 found at www.IN.gov/idem/5157.htm#olq_ust to LeakingUST@idem.IN.gov; or
 - Fax the completed form to (317) 234-0428.
- For confidential compliance assistance, please call the Compliance and Technical Assistance Program at (800) 988-7901 ext. 2-8172.