



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

New Owners/Operators of Underground Storage Tank Systems

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Description:

- Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) are tanks and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground.
- USTs are generally made from steel or fiberglass and contain regulated substances such as petroleum products or hazardous substances.

Environmental Impacts:

- Faulty installation, corrosion or inadequate operating 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 to prevent the release of petroleum and hazardous substances into the environment. Preventing releases is essential to keep petroleum or other hazardous substance from seeping into the soil and contaminating groundwater, as well as 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, corrosion protection, and to ensure that tanks not meeting those requirements are brought into compliance or closed. IDEM regulates USTs owned/operated by both businesses and private individuals.
- IDEM is also responsible for registering new UST owners and facilities, inspecting UST facilities every three years and implementing enforcement actions.

Basic Requirements:

- **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*. This form is available by:
 - Calling the Underground Storage Tank Section at (317) 232-8854.
 - Calling the Compliance and Technical Assistance Program at (800) 988-7901.
 - Downloading the form from IDEM's website at <http://www.in.gov/idem/5157.htm>
- **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 (release detection) is required at all times for the underground storage tank and the associated piping. In addition to release detection, routine testing and recordkeeping are required.

- **Leak Detection Methods:** Automatic tank gauging systems, vapor monitoring, ground water monitoring, statistical inventory reconciliation and other methods that meet performance standards.
- **Secondary Containment – Tanks and Piping:** After July 1, 2007, all newly installed or replaced piping connected to the tank must meet the secondary containment requirements described under [329 IAC 9](#). The UST Rule requires all new or replaced tanks and piping to be secondarily contained and interstitially monitored. 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 and Recordkeeping:**
 - **Reporting:** Reporting is required for notification of UST system installation, change of ownership, change in service and closure. Owners/operators are required to report suspected and confirmed releases within 24 hours.
 - **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.
- **Inspections:** An IDEM inspector is permitted under [Indiana Code \(IC\) 13-14-2-2](#) to enter private or public property to inspect for and investigate possible violations.
- **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.

More Information:

- For more information on UST compliance, visit IDEM's website at www.IN.gov/idem/4999.htm.
- For UST questions and concerns, contact IDEM's Office of Land Quality, UST Section at (317) 232-8854.
- For UST fees and billing, call (800) 451-6027 ext. 4-0343 or (317) 234-0343.
- For more information on federal UST programs and regulations, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) website at <http://www.epa.gov/oust/>.
- A suspected or confirmed release must be reported within 24 hours. To report a release, call (888) 233-7745, or call locally at (317) 233-7745.
- For confidential compliance assistance, please call the Compliance and Technical Assistance Program at (800) 988-7901 ext. 2-8172.