

THINK



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Changes in the Vapor Recovery Program

The Tank Management Branch has recently made changes to the way we implement our Vapor Recovery Program. Some of these changes are listed here so that you may help us as we transition our program.

Vapor recovery compliance will now be handled by the TMB compliance officer currently responsible for underground storage tank compliance at your facility(ies). Any questions should be directed to this individual. If you do not know who your compliance officer is, please call and someone will put you in touch with your assigned compliance officer.

The federal Vapor Recovery Program requires TMB personnel to witness testing of the vapor recovery system once every three years. In addition, the federal *UST Compliance Act of 2005* requires that facilities, except those that have only heating oil USTs, be inspected for compliance every three years. So, in an effort to maximize the time of the project officers, a compliance inspection may be conducted when we witness the vapor recovery testing. This benefits both the TMB and the owner/operator in several ways:

- All of the tank top manhole covers and dispenser covers are typically open during annual testing. This reduces the amount of time to complete an inspection and allows us to accomplish more in less time.

- The product dispensing parts of a station are usually shut down during testing, making conditions safer for our inspectors. It also reduces the number of customers that an owner/operator must wait upon while trying to gather records for the inspector.
- It causes less disruption to an owner/operator's business by completing both of these important tasks at the same time.
- The testing contractor may be able to handle minor issues such as verifying the presence and function of ball floats while the inspector is on site *if authorized to do so by the owner/operator*. Any costs for these tasks will be the responsibility of the owner/operator.

“a compliance inspection may be conducted when we witness the vapor recovery testing”

We will allow your contractor to perform vapor recovery testing outside of normal business hours. However, if you plan to test during these hours, your contractor must call the assigned compliance officer after submitting the notification to confirm that he or she does not wish to witness the testing.

Mr. Peter Rollo will continue to handle vapor recovery permits and system installations/upgrades.

Please call the TMB for more information about these changes and thanks for your help in making this a smooth transition.

Installation of New Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs)

by Erich Schuller

If you are planning to install a new AST that is greater than 250 gallons in capacity and that will contain a Regulated Substance, you must notify the TMB prior to the installation. There are some exemptions to this requirement for:

- ASTs of 1,100 gallons or less and are used on a farm
- ASTs of 1,100 gallons or less and are used solely to store heating fuel for consumptive use on the premises
- ASTs of 1,100 gallons or less and are used solely to store motor fuel or motor oil for noncommercial purposes (not used to support a business)
- ASTs installed on a temporary basis, not to exceed six months

However, please check with the TMB before you decide that you do not need to notify due to the size of the tank or its contents. If the AST will contain a combustible or flammable gas or liquid, you may need a permit from the State Fire Marshal's Office in addition to the notification requirements of the TMB. Please check with the appropriate State Fire Marshal's Office in each county. The State Fire Marshal's web page is:

<http://www.delawarestatefiremarshal.com/>.

If the AST is less than 12,500 gallons in size, a completed AST Registration form is all that is required to notify the TMB, and is available on the AST web page at: <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/dnrec2000/Divisions/AWM/ast/>.

The TMB will require documentation in addition to the AST Registration Form if the new AST is equal to or greater than 12,500 gallons and contains a Regulated Substance other than heating fuel, die-

sel or kerosene or is equal to or greater than 40,000 gallons and contains a Regulated Substance including diesel, heating fuel or kerosene. There is also a construction permit fee assessed for each tank equal to or greater than 12,500 gallons as listed below:

<u>Tank Size</u>	<u>Construction Permit Fee</u>
12,500 – 39,999 gallons	\$1,500.00
40,000 gallons and greater	\$3,750.00

The required additional documentation must include drawings of the facility, AST, foundation, piping, leak detection systems, overfill prevention devices, vents, measuring gauges, secondary containment, release prevention barrier, and cathodic protection system.

After all the documentation is received, the Department will issue an approval or denial within 60 days of the receipt of the complete documentation. If a denial is issued, all required corrections and compliance with the requirements must be met before the installation can be approved. If the installation is approved, the Department will issue an approval letter and construction of the AST may begin.

When the AST installation is completed, the installation must be inspected by a certified API 653 Inspector or a certified STI-SP001 Inspector with a report submitted to the TMB that certifies that the AST was constructed and installed according to the applicable standard. After this report is received and reviewed by the Department, a letter will be issued by the Department authorizing the owner of the AST to operate the AST according to the *Regulations Governing Aboveground Storage Tanks*.

If you have any questions concerning the installation of a new AST, please call the TMB.

New Addresses

by Rob Underwood

Did your facility or other mailing address change due to Delaware's new enhanced 911 system? Many residents and business owners were forced to change their addresses when Delaware upgraded the 911 system. People who live or own a business in a rural area with a R.R. or R.D. address and have no physical street address should have already received a new address from the county.

The TMB still has many registered facilities in its databases that have "R.R." or "R.D." addresses. Some addresses only have a road name, such as

"Route 13", or the intersection of two roads. These incomplete addresses often cause problems when sending out mailings or attempting to locate a facility.

If your address changed and you have not reported your new "911" address to the TMB, please do so immediately. Address changes may be reported by calling the TMB at 302-395-2500 or emailing us at DNREC_AWM_Tanks@state.de.us.

Please include your facility identification numbers(s) if possible. This number may be found on your tank registration certificate or on your underground storage tank registration invoice.

Disabled Motorist Assistance Program

by Alex Rittberg

The State of Delaware requires service stations providing both full and self service to provide full service assistance to disabled motorists. This service must be offered during the hours that full service is offered and must be offered at self-service prices. Industry trends indicate that fewer stations each year are providing full services, and are becoming self-service only. Therefore, fewer service stations are providing assistance to disabled motorists. Disabled motorists are finding it increasingly difficult to locate retail stations that are willing to help them fuel their vehicles.

DeIDOT has recently implemented the “Voluntary Service Station Assistance Program.” DeIDOT will provide, at no cost to participating service station retail dealers, two signs advertising a station’s participation in the program. One sign is a “Pump

Service” sign that displays the international wheelchair symbol and lets motorists know that your station services disabled motorists. The second sign specifies the hours that full service for disabled motorists is available. In addition, DeIDOT will advertise your station’s participation on its web-site.

Serving all motorists makes good business sense. We commend those stations that are already providing this service. If you would like to become a participating station in this program, please contact the Delaware Motor Fuel Tax Administration, Office of Retail Gasoline Sales, Post Office Drawer E, Dover, Delaware 19903-1565, or call (302)744-2703.



Used Oil Tanks

by Gary Charles

Used oil tanks have always presented some challenges when it comes to complying with the requirements of Delaware’s *Regulations Governing Underground Storage Tanks* (UST Regulations). The methods of leak detection and overfill protection used on USTs at gas stations or truck stops may not work or may be very expensive when used solely for used oil USTs.

So how, you ask, can my used oil tank be in compliance with leak detection and overfill protection, work properly, and still not break the bank? If your used oil tank has a capacity of 2,000 gallons or less, the Department allows for the following alternative compliance options to fulfill the requirements for overfill protection and leak detection in used oil UST systems.

Overfill Protection

Owners and operators of used oil tanks may submit a written request detailing a standard operating procedure to be used as overfill protection. This standard operating procedure should explain how the person adding used oil to the tank will measure the product level and determine that the amount of empty space in the UST is sufficient to prevent the UST being filled beyond 90% capacity. The Department would like to see this operating procedure posted near the used oil tank so personnel can read it. The Department reserves the right to review pump-out receipts to ensure the tank is not being filled above 90% of its capacity.

Leak Detection

To fulfill leak detection requirements, inventory control (IC) and one other form of leak detection must be utilized. If your used oil tank is 2,000 gallons or less, manual tank gauging may be used to fulfill the requirements for either IC *or* as a second method of leak detection.

Inventory control for used oil tanks differs from inventory control for high throughput tanks such as retail gasoline and diesel tanks. The usual end of month reconciliation of 1% + 130 gallons would have little meaning with a tank that might have only a few hundred gallons throughput (in this case, product added to the tank) per month. For this reason, the TMB allows for inventory control without the end of month reconciliation. Instead, the tank operator will examine the inventory for a trend that shows evidence of a release during the days of operation between manual tank gauging assessments. Any trend that indicates a release must be investigated for the cause. And if the investigation indicates a release, the TMB must be called immediately.

Manual Tank Gauging

The TMB has a booklet available describing the proper procedures for manual tank gauging along with forms for recording the required information. Call us to request the booklet or if you have any other questions about keeping your used oil tank in compliance.

THINK TANK

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Announcements

Patrick Boettcher – Trent Dennis Boettcher was born on January 11, 2006. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. Congratulations to the Boettcher family!

Emil Onuschak – hydrologist, retired after 17 years with the Tank Management Branch. We wish him an enjoyable retirement and will miss his unique technical skills, eloquent writing, and willingness to advise on any situation.

Rob Underwood – Rob was hired in January 2006 as an Environmental Scientist. Rob previously worked for the Delaware Emergency Management Agency and will be handling UST compliance projects.

Emil Onuschak Retires January 31

He was always here, and it seems like he always had the right answer or insight into any issue you brought to him—a mentor to many of us in the TMB. He was the “wordmeister” who could untangle the most jumbled mess of words into a clear, concise document.

Emil came to the newly-formed Underground Storage Tank Branch in October, 1988, and was instrumental in forming the Branch’s intuitive, common-sense approach to cleaning up releases from leaking USTs. The Branch’s *Technical Guidance Manual* was his document and his input was key in developing the DERBCAP process we use today. His many articles for *Think Tank* were always thoughtful and timely. His editorial help was invaluable.

Although Emil has officially retired and intends to spend more time with the grandchildren and other interests (perhaps a quest for the perfect donut, widely reputed to be his favorite food), he will be returning on a part-time basis to take on special projects for the TMB. We are grateful that he will still make his many talents available to the Branch.

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