



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

What Tank Contractors Need to Know About the Underground Storage Tank Rules

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The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has changes to certain requirements for installing and operating underground storage tank (UST) systems. While most rules remain the same, here are highlights of changes that may affect you as a contractor working with regulated USTs.

Do you install new or replacement UST systems?

New tanks, piping, submersible pumps, and dispensers must now have liquid-tight secondary containment which can contain and detect leaks.

Secondary containment tank designs include double-walled fiberglass, double-walled steel with cathodic protection of the outer wall, double-walled jacketed steel, and single-walled jacketed steel with interstitial monitoring capability.

Secondary containment piping designs include double-walled fiberglass, double-walled steel with cathodic protection of the outer wall, double-walled jacketed steel, single-walled jacketed steel with interstitial monitoring capability, and double-walled flex piping.

Submersible pumps must have a covered, liquid-tight sump of synthetic materials around the pump head.

Fuel dispensers must have a liquid-tight sump of synthetic materials underneath the dispenser.

In addition to new facility construction, contained components are required at the time of adding to or replacing existing UST components.

However, when replacing an existing dispenser, a contained sump is only required if work is performed on any piping beneath the shear valve.

Existing non-contained UST systems may continue to operate until they are replaced.

Systems exempt from containment:

- Sole-use heating oil tank systems.
- Safe suction piping (provide design verification to tank owner).

What special rules apply to UST system repair work?

If piping has leaked, the entire run from tank to dispenser must be replaced with containment piping.

If piping has corrosion pitting, the entire run from tank to dispenser must be replaced with containment piping.

If a single short (less than 10 feet) segment of single-walled piping is replaced as part of a repair, the replacement segment may be single-walled.

Are there additional installation requirements?

All USTs (existing as well as new) must have a drop tube.

Shear valves must be securely anchored.

Secondarily contained pressure piping requires *either* an automatic line leak detector *or* a gravity-drain design to the pump sump which has an alarm sensor or a shutoff sensor.

Do you handle tank “registration” and advance notifications to the MPCA?

New UST notification and advance notice forms have been developed—use them!

Advance notice is now required for installation and replacement of *dispensers*.

Do you install or test mechanical line leak detectors?

New procedures for conducting annual function tests, and minimum qualifications for those who test, are now specified.

Do you install or test cathodically protected UST systems?

Impressed current systems must now be tested *annually* by a corrosion expert. (Sacrificial anode systems continue to be tested every three years.)

Corrosion test results for both sacrificial anode systems and impressed current systems must be submitted to the MPCA within 30 days of testing, using the MPCA form.

Need more information?

Visit the UST Program at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/ust.html>. The site has forms, fact sheets, and other information about USTs and UST requirements.

You can also call the MPCA at 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864.
