



General Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tanks

This fact sheet outlines the requirements for regulated aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) found in Minn. R. chs. 7001 and 7151. These rules apply to all ASTs storing a liquid substance that is not gaseous or solid at ambient temperature and pressure.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) must be notified about all ASTs within 30 days of installation or change in tank status (Minn. Stat. § 116.48).

The AST rules and notification statute does not indicate a minimum tank size, but the MPCA considers the smallest AST requiring registration to be a tank that is 500 gallons or greater in capacity. This size is consistent with underground storage tank notification requirements.

Owners and operators must complete and submit the AST Notification Form to the MPCA. To get a copy of this form, call MPCA at 651-296-6300 or toll-free at 1-800-657-3864 or on the MPCA Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/ast.

Exemptions from notification

Tanks **not** required to be registered include:

- farm or residential tanks 1,100 gallons or less storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes
- heating oil tanks 1,100 gallons or less
- agricultural chemical tanks
- tanks storing liquids that are a gas at atmospheric temperature and pressure
- tote tanks

- temporary tanks
- tanks that are less than 500 gallons

AST requirements

Owners and operators must comply with AST requirements in Minn. R. 7151, unless exempted as outlined below.

Many ASTs are exempt from Minn. R. ch. 7151. They are:

- tanks containing 500 gallons or less
- farm tanks
- residential tanks 1,100 gallons or less used for noncommercial purposes
- equipment or machinery containing substances for operational purposes like hydraulic lift tanks, heating and cooling equipment, and electrical equipment
- vehicles designed and used to transport substances that don't remain at the same location for more than 30 consecutive days or refill at the same site after dispensing the tank's contents
- heating oil tanks 1,100 gallons or less
- wastewater treatment facility equipment
- indoor tanks
- tote tanks
- tanks greater than 500 gallons capacity, but less than or equal to 1,100 gallons capacity that are **more** than 500 feet from surface water

- septic tanks
- a surface impoundment, pit, pond, or lagoon
- stormwater collection systems
- temporary tanks (tanks at a site less than 30 days)
- storage tanks with drinking water, filtered-surface water, demineralized water, noncontact cooling water, or water stored for emergency purposes

Requirements for regulated tanks greater than 1,100 gallons

All regulated tanks with a capacity greater than 1,100 gallons must:

- be registered with the MPCA
- be labeled
- be constructed using appropriate industry standards
- have secondary containment
- have a facility sign posted
- have substance transfer area safeguards
- have internal and/or external corrosion protection
- have overflow protection
- be monitored for leaks and regularly inspected
- be properly maintained
- have monitoring and inspection records on site
- assess releases during operations or at tank removal and report them to the State Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798
- label lines so connections can be identified during substance transfer
- have underground piping safeguards if utilized
- be properly closed if no longer used
- be sampled for contamination when tank is removed

More information about these requirements and their effective dates can be found in fact sheets listed at the end of this document in the “Need more information” section.

Requirements for AST facilities with a capacity greater than one million gallons

Facilities with greater than one million gallons total capacity for all liquid storage tanks must apply to the MPCA for a major facility permit. Requirements for tanks at these facilities are based on the individual site and tank characteristics (Minn. R. 7001.4200).

Requirements for small tanks near surface water

Regulated tanks with a capacity of greater than 500 gallons, but less than or equal to 1,100 gallons that are within 500 feet of a class 2 surface water (water that can be used for recreational purposes) are required to:

- be registered with the MPCA
- be labeled
- provide secondary containment
- have a sign at the facility
- be constructed using appropriate industry standards

Requirements for temporary tanks

Tanks larger than 1,100 gallons that store product for longer than 30 days, but less than one year are defined as temporary tanks and must:

- be labeled
- have a posted facility sign
- have secondary containment
- be maintained

Temporary tanks with a capacity of greater than 500 gallons within 500 feet of a class 2 surface water must also meet the temporary tank requirements listed above.

The MPCA will not require temporary tanks to be registered, however the rule requirements still apply.

Compliance with other regulations

Other regulations that tank owners need to be in compliance with include:

- the federal Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan
- the Minnesota “Spill Bill” requirements
- hazardous waste regulations
- state and local fire code
- other state and local regulations

Also, petroleum products that are stored for resale in ASTs greater than 2,000 gallons must comply with the petroleum product delivery law (see Petroleum Product Delivery Law fact sheet for more information).

Need more information?

Visit the AST Program at www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/ast.html. The site has forms, fact sheets, and other information about ASTs and AST requirements.

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