



Asphalt Cement Aboveground Storage Tanks

Asphalt cement aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) must be in compliance with specific requirements to prevent leaks and spills as outlined in Minn. R. ch. 7151.

NOTE: If total capacity for all ASTs at the facility, including non-asphalt tanks, is greater than one million gallons, the tanks are covered by different rules and the owner or operator must apply for an AST Major Facility Permit from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The fact sheet “Major Facility Requirements” has more information.

Definition

Asphalt cement is defined by Minn. R. ch. 7151 as a mixture of bituminous obtained from native deposits or as a petroleum by-product used for roofing or paving that is in a solid state at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Registration

The MPCA **does not** require the registration of ASTs storing asphalt cement.

Exemptions

Due to the high viscosity of this substance, some parts of the AST rules do not apply to asphalt cement ASTs. These ASTs **do not** need:

- corrosion protection and corrosion protection monitoring
- substance transfer areas
- overfill protection
- leak detection
- internal inspections for field-erected ASTs
- soil or ground water sampling during removal for possible contamination

Labeling

ASTs containing asphalt cement must be clearly labeled indicating the type of substance stored and the tank’s capacity. If there is more than one tank, each tank must be labeled with a unique tank number.

Tank piping used for loading or unloading must be labeled so that the person performing the product transfer can identify which tank line is connected to which tank.

If a person is not on site 24 hours a day, a sign must be posted with the name, address, and telephone number of the facility owner or operator, or a local emergency response contact. The sign must be posted so that it can be seen outside any containment area.

Secondary containment

Asphalt cement ASTs need secondary containment diking with available volume in the amount of 100 percent of the capacity of the largest tank in the containment area. An additional 10 percent volume is required for containment areas exposed to precipitation.

Monitoring

Someone must be present to visually monitor asphalt cement ASTs that are being loaded and unloaded with product. That person must be able to shut off product transfer before an overfill occurs.

A weekly visual check of the tank and containment area for releases must be conducted. A monthly visual inspection is also required. This inspection must include a walk through of the site to identify cracks in the secondary containment area. Visual examination of the exterior surfaces of tanks, piping, valves, pumps, and other equipment for cracks, corrosion, releases, and maintenance deficiencies must also be conducted. The monthly inspection must also identify poor maintenance, operating practices, or malfunctioning equipment.

Field-erected asphalt cement tanks must receive an external inspection by an API-certified inspector according to API Standard 653 every five years. For more information, see the fact sheet "Guidelines for Internal and External Inspections of Field-Erected Tanks."

Maintenance

Owners and operators must minimize rust on the tank exterior and must dispose of water drawn from the bottom of the tank in accordance with any state and federal regulations.

The secondary containment area must be kept free of cracks, open seams, open drains, siphons, and vegetation other than grass. Grass may be used to reduce erosion.

Precipitation must be removed as often as possible to maintain proper containment area volume. If precipitation exists in the containment area, the tank volume must be reduced to maintain the 100 percent capacity of the largest tank in the containment area.

Stormwater that collects in the containment area must be discharged according to state and federal regulations.

Safeguard systems must be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's schedules and standards.

Record keeping

Owners or operators of asphalt cement ASTs must retain all tank system design records, including maintenance and repair documentation, third party certifications, and as built drawings, for the life of the tank system.

Inspection reports for external inspections of field erected tanks must also be retained for the life of the tank system.

Periodic monitoring (weekly and monthly) records must be kept for three years. Documentation for monitoring must include the name of the person conducting the monitoring, the method used, the date of the monitoring, and the monitoring results.

Releases

The owner or operator of an asphalt cement AST must notify the Minnesota Duty Officer immediately of any discharges from the tank or piping at 800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

An owner or operator must immediately investigate and clean up any release.

The owner or operator must assess the secondary containment area for damage where product release occurred, and make any necessary repairs.

Out-of-service requirements

When an asphalt cement AST is no longer used for one year or more, it must be taken out of service or removed.

To take the tank system out of service, the tank owner or operator must:

- remove all liquid asphalt cement from the AST, connected piping, and appurtenances
- secure the AST to prevent unauthorized entrance or tampering
- render the tank free of vapors
- label the tank exterior "Out of Service," and the date the tank was removed from service

If the tank is ever reactivated, it must be thoroughly inspected and tested before being put into use.

Temporary asphalt cement ASTs

Asphalt cement ASTs that are on site between 30 days and a year are considered temporary tanks and must meet the temporary tank requirements.

These ASTs must be labeled “Temporary Storage” and show the date the storage began.

If a person is not on site 24 hours a day, a sign must be posted with the name, address, and telephone number of the facility owner or operator, or a local emergency response contact. The sign must be posted so that it can be seen outside any containment area.

Temporary tanks must have secondary containment diking.

Moving asphalt cement ASTs

If an asphalt cement AST is moved from one site to another, or is moved within the same site and put back into use, it must be determined to be sound through a thorough internal and external cleaning, degassing, and visual inspection. Portable tanks and double walled tanks containing asphalt cement do not need to perform the procedures listed above.

Design standards

An underground storage tank cannot be used as an AST. Also, AST providers must comply with industry tank and piping design and construction standards.

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.
