



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Substance Transfer Area Requirements

Tanks/Aboveground/Storage Tanks #4.10 • April 2004

Owners and operators of above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) greater than 1,100 gallons in capacity need to provide spill safeguards for their tank systems. Examples of these safeguards are spill boxes, remote fill boxes, or containment areas. This fact sheet outlines the substance transfer area requirements according to Minn. R. 7151.5500 and 7151.6500.

General

A substance transfer area is designed to catch releases that may occur during the transfer of product into or out of a tank. Safeguards in the substance transfer area are required to protect the area directly beneath and around the hose connections of the tank or the transfer vehicle. These safeguards must also protect the connection to the tank system if it falls outside the secondary containment area.

The safeguards must effectively contain a release at the connection point, as well as at the vehicle, during transfer of the substance into and out of the tank.

Exemptions

Substance transfer area safeguards are not required if:

- a tank has a capacity less than or equal to 1,100 gallons
- a tank that is filled with a hand-held nozzle

- a transfer of the substance occurs through a continuous pipeline between tanks at one site
- it is a barge transfer facility regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard

Timing of compliance

Regulated ASTs installed before November 1, 1998, were required to meet substance transfer area requirements by November 1, 1999. Regulated ASTs installed after November 1, 1998, must meet these requirements at the time of installation.

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures federal requirements may apply immediately to some regulated ASTs (See 40 CFR Ch. 1, pt 112.7).

Need more information?

Visit the AST Program at <http://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 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864.