



**Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency**

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Underground Storage Tanks: Are you doing the Big Five?

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The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) requires all regulated underground storage tank (UST) systems to comply with specific requirements. This fact sheet is designed to highlight the five main requirements for managing USTs. This is a guidance document for owners and operators, to be used as a compliance tool.

The Big Five requirements cover

1. tank leak detection
2. line (pipe) leak detection
3. corrosion testing
4. tank operation
5. record keeping

Tank leak detection

There are four main tank leak detection methods:

- Automatic tank gauging (e.g., TLS-350) requires a passing leak test at least once a month.
- Monthly Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR).
- Inventory control (may be used only during the ten years following installation of the tank).
- Interstitial monitoring may be used if the tank is double-walled. (This method must be used on tanks installed after December 22, 2007.)

Line leak detection

There are four main line leak detection methods:

- annual line tightness tests coupled with annual function checks on mechanical line leak detectors
- sump alarms with an annual function test—used with some double-walled piping applications (must be used on piping installed after December 22, 2007)
- electronic line leak detectors with an annual function test
- SIR (mechanical line leak detectors must still be function-tested annually)

Corrosion testing

Metal tanks or piping with impressed current must be tested annually. Metal tanks or piping with sacrificial anodes must be tested every three years. These tests must be performed by a qualified cathodic protection tester according to MPCA rules.

Tank operation

Once a month all product dispensers, submersible sumps, and spill buckets must be visually inspected for leaks and maintenance issues.

New UST rules passed in 2010 require owners/operators to pass an MPCA test relating to the operation of their

tank system. Employees must have knowledge of how to operate and maintain the USTs at their site and how to respond to spills and releases.

Record keeping

You must keep records on file to prove that you are in compliance with all testing, employee training, and inspection requirements. You must also retain records of all repairs made to the tank system.

Additional information

More detailed information is available on the MPCA tanks Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/ust.html.

Questions? Call your MPCA regional tanks inspector at one of the numbers in the left-hand column on the first page of this fact sheet.