

## Focus on Preparing for an UST Inspection

The Department of Ecology is required to conduct an Underground Storage Tank (UST) compliance inspection at all registered tank facilities. Clicking on the links in *italics* will give more topic information.

**Which records will be reviewed onsite?** Depending on your type of system, have the following records:

- Current Business License with tank endorsements
- Tank pollution liability insurance or proof of self-insurance
- Class A/B and Class C *Operator Training* records
- Emergency Signage* visible from all dispensers and tanks
- Every 3 years** Cathodic (Corrosion) Protection test (last two tests, repairs)
  - Steel tanks and/or steel lines
  - Steel flex connectors in soil at tank end (e.g. at turbine)
  - Steel flex connectors in soil at non-tank end (e.g. at dispenser)
- Every 60-day** or **Monthly** log of Volt/Amp readings for Impressed Current systems
- Steel tanks w/ Internal Lining only (no CP): Internal Inspection at **10 years** & every **5 years** thereafter
- Tank Release Detection - **Monthly** printout (or log):
  - Automatic Tank Gauge* (ATG) 0.2 gph leak test passing results, or
  - Interstitial sensor normal results (required if tank installed after 10/2012), or
  - Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR) vendor results, or
  - Daily/weekly sticking records (rare)
- Pressurized Piping Release Detection
  - Annual** test of automatic line leak detector – ALLD (last two tests) and **one** of the following:
    - Annual** line tightness test (last two tests), or
    - Monthly** interstitial sensor normal results and test (required if pipe installed after 10/2012), or
    - Monthly** printout of 0.2 gph passing electronic ALLD, or
    - Monthly** SIR vendor results
- Non-safe Suction Piping (i.e. check valve at tank, tank higher than pump) use **one** of the following:
  - Every 3 years** line tightness test, or
  - Monthly** sump sensor normal results, or
  - Monthly** SIR results
- Safe Suction Piping with only one check valve at **pump** (no leak detection required)
- Walkthrough Inspection*: **monthly** spill buckets/leak monitor and **annually** sumps.....(Due by 10/2019)
- Annual** test of release detection equipment.....(Even Tag# due by 10/2020 – Odd Tag# due by 10/2021)
- Every 3 years** Spill Bucket test.....(Even Tag# due by 10/2020 – Odd Tag# due by 10/2021)
- Every 3 years** Overfill equipment test.....(Even Tag# due by 10/2020 – Odd Tag# due by 10/2021)
- Every 3 years** Sump test, if using interstitial on lines...(Even Tag# due by 10/2020 – Odd Tag# due by 10/2021)

**Which equipment needs to be opened?** Depending on your type of system, the following equipment needs to be opened (accessed) by you or a service provider you hire:

- Large manholes above tanks (i.e. turbine area)
- Dispenser panels
- Fills and Spill Prevention equipment
  - Overfill equipment
  - Automatic Shut-Off valve, or
  - Ball-Float device (top fitting opened with tool), or
  - Exterior Alarm

**Should I hire my service provider to open the equipment?** Consider hiring your tank service provider to open all the equipment during the inspection, since it is difficult and potentially dangerous to open the large heavy manholes above the turbines. Appropriate tools must be used to safely open and lift the manholes. Ecology inspectors will not open the equipment. Be sure to have the keys to open dispenser panels and fill ports. If a tank service provider is not present, use a vehicle and orange cones to block off the tank area while opening these lids to create a safer working area; drivers cannot see you when you are kneeling on the ground to open lids.

**How many years of records will be checked?** Have at least the last 12 months of monthly release detection records (i.e. passing tank leak test printouts, sensor normal printouts, etc.) available for a detailed review on-site. For tests (i.e. annual line tests, every 3 year CP tests) conducted by your service provider, provide the last two tests conducted.

**How often will each site be inspected?** Sites are routinely inspected every one to three years. Inspections are scheduled one or two weeks prior to the inspection. The inspector will need your complete attention, so be sure to have someone else working as cashier.

**How long is the inspection?** On average, one to two hours.

**What happens if violations are found?** The inspector will issue a Notice of Non-Compliance, which outlines deadlines for completing specific actions. Significant or repeat violations may result in a Field Penalty or a Notice of Delivery Prohibition (Red Tag) being issued. If compliance is not achieved, Ecology may pursue enforcement through other methods.

**What if my tank is Temporarily Closed?** Beginning October 2018, financial responsibility may be suspended during temporary tank closure if the tank is emptied and a Site Assessment with soil and groundwater sampling is completed. Federal and State tank facilities are exempt from the financial responsibility requirement. If applicable, corrosion protection must be operational and testing conducted during temporary closure. If a tank has less than an inch of product, release detection is not required. During the inspection, you will need to stick the tank to verify it is empty. If a tank contains product, release detection is required at least every 30 days. Records will be reviewed and equipment checked during the inspection.

**How does the inspection benefit me?** Correct operation and maintenance help ensure leaks are detected early or even prevented, protecting your investment and potentially saving you thousands of dollars in cleanup costs.

**More questions?** Please contact your local office and ask to speak with an UST inspector.

**Central Region** (509) 575-2490  
**Eastern Region** (509) 329-3400  
**Northwest Region** (425) 649-7000  
 Whatcom Co. (360) 255-4400  
**Southwest Region** (360) 407-6300  
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