

# **UST News: September 2021**



**UST** Installation

### L&I, Ecology, and journeyman electricians

Under Washington's UST Regulations (Chapter 173-360A WAC), service providers must be certified and licensed before they can test regulated underground tanks, piping, and related equipment.

In 2020, Ecology learned that the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) had notified an UST service provider that unplugging an UST probe to conduct testing requires a journeyman electrician. Ecology met with L&I in November of 2020 to get a better understanding of how these laws and regulations apply to UST owners and operators. A summary of the information gathered during that meeting is available on the <u>UST electrical work webpage</u><sup>1</sup>.

# **Updated UST publication**

Ecology's revised <u>Site Assessment Guidance<sup>2</sup></u> document provides guidance to UST Site Assessors on performing site assessments during permanent tank closure and site checks to investigate a suspected release. The guidance outlines activities to confirm or disprove the existence of contamination from regulated UST systems.

# Is your tank compatible with E15?

The EPA removed barriers to E15 (gasoline containing 15% ethanol) year-round use in June 2019. More information on E15 and other emerging fuels is available on the <u>EPA Website</u><sup>3</sup>.

The Washington UST Rule (WAC 173-360A-0350), requires that the UST systems are compatible with the stored substance. UST owners and operators need to submit our <u>Alternative Fuel Installation Checklist</u><sup>4</sup> if your UST is storing fuel containing greater than B20 or E10.

# UST tank fees increased July 2021

<u>Underground storage tank (UST)</u><sup>5</sup> fees increased from \$181.83 to \$192.58 per tank on July 1, 2021. More information on the fee increase is available on Ecology's UST webpage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup><u>https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Underground-Storage-Tank-service-providers/UST-electrical-work</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2109050.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.epa.gov/ust/emerging-fuels-and-underground-storage-tanks-usts</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070523.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summaryPages/200951/html

# Questions about spill bucket testing

Ecology received questions about spill bucket testing, specifically the 3-year testing of spill buckets. The questions relate to which spill buckets need to conduct 3-year testing and which do not. All single wall spill buckets require the every 3-year testing. For double wall spill buckets, we have described two of the most common scenarios below. Examples of typical types of 3-year tightness tests are a hydrostatic test on the inner wall, a vacuum test on the inner wall, a vacuum test on the interstice of a double wall bucket, or a smoke (tracer) test in soil.

The EPA explains their approach in their <u>Technical Compendium<sup>6</sup></u> last updated in November of 2017.

#### Is the 3-year test required on a Double Wall Spill Bucket?

**YES**, if your double wall spill bucket has a dry interstice with a float/sensor (most common), **the 3-year test is required**.

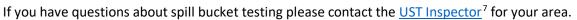
Actions operator must complete to remain in compliance:

- Monthly: Conduct and document walkthrough inspections.
- Every 3-years: Conduct spill bucket tightness testing.

**NO,** if your double wall spill bucket monitors the integrity of both the inner and outer walls at least monthly, **the 3-year test is not required**. Common types of spill buckets that monitor both walls are those with a vacuum interstice or brine filled interstice.

Actions operator must complete to remain in compliance:

• Monthly: Conduct and document walkthrough inspections.



#### Wildfire Preparedness for Tank Systems

The EPA has finalized the <u>Wildfire Guide: Preparation And Recovery For Underground And Aboveground Storage Tank</u> <u>Systems</u>.<sup>8</sup> This guide helps owners prepare for and respond to catastrophic effects of partially or fully burned systems.

#### **Related Information**

• Ecology's UST webpage, <u>https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Underground-</u> <u>storage-tanks</u>.

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#### Double-Walled Spill Bucket with float sensor the 3-year test is required



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>https://www.epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tank-ust-technical-compendium-about-2015-ust-regulation#spillbuckets</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Underground-storage-tanks/UST-contact-list</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> www.epa.gov/ust/wildfire-guide-preparation-and-recovery-underground-and-aboveground-storage-tank-systems