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 UST electrical work webpage[1].

Updated UST publication

Ecology's revised Site Assessment Guidance[2] 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 EPA Website[3].

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 Alternative Fuel Installation Checklist[4] if your UST is storing fuel containing greater than B20 or E10.

UST tank fees increased July 2021

Underground storage tank (UST)[5] 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.

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[1] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Underground-Storage-Tank-service-providers/UST-electrical-work

[2] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2109050.pdf

[3] https://www.epa.gov/ust/emerging-fuels-and-underground-storage-tanks-usts

[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070523.html

[5] 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 Technical Compendium[6] 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.

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

Actions operator must complete to remain in compliance:

- Monthly: Conduct and document walkthrough inspections.

If you have questions about spill bucket testing please contact the UST Inspector[7] for your area.

Wildfire Preparedness for Tank Systems

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

Related Information

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

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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at first.last@ecy.wa.gov, or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

[6] https://www.epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tank-ust-technical-compendium-about-2015-ust-regulation#spillbuckets
[7] https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Underground-storage-tanks/UST-contact-list
[8] www.epa.gov/ust/wildfire-guide-preparation-and-recovery-underground-and-aboveground-storage-tank-systems