



STORAGE TANK AND SPILL PREVENTION ACT (An Overview)

The Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act (Act 32 of 1989, as amended) was signed into law on July 6, 1989. The law establishes a comprehensive regulatory program for both aboveground and underground storage tanks and facilities. It allows the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop environmental protection programs to prevent and clean up storage tank product releases and spills. The act includes both enforcement provisions and a strong reliance on the private sector to implement the major program elements.

DEP's Storage Tank Program is administered by the Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management, Division of Storage Tanks, P.O. Box 8762, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762, 800-42-TANKS (in PA only), 717-772-5599 or through the PA AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf); and by the Environmental Cleanup Program, Storage Tank Section, in each of DEP's six regional offices. (See regional office addresses and phone numbers at the end of the fact sheet.)

Regulated aboveground and underground storage tanks

An aboveground storage tank (AST) is defined as a stationary tank with a capacity of more than 250 gallons that has more than 90 percent of its volume (including the volume in the pipes) above supporting grade, can be visually inspected from the exterior, and is used to contain regulated substances, including petroleum products and hazardous substances. The definition also contains 19 exemptions.

An underground storage tank (UST) is defined as a tank with a capacity of more than 110 gallons that has 10 percent or more of its volume (including the volume in the underground pipes) beneath the surface of the ground and is used to contain regulated substances, including petroleum products and hazardous substances. The definition also contains 19 exemptions.

Registration of Regulated Storage Tanks

Owners of regulated aboveground and underground tanks must register each storage tank with DEP and pay an annual registration fee. Storage tank registration forms and instructions can be obtained from the Division of Storage Tanks (Central Office), regional DEP offices, or from the DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us. Keyword: "DEP storage tanks."

It is unlawful for an owner/operator to operate or use, in any way, a regulated aboveground or underground storage tank that is not registered as required.

Permitting of Regulated Storage Tanks

There are two categories of permits, operating and installation. All regulated storage tanks are covered by an operating permit. These permits can be either a Permit-by-Rule or a General Operating Permit. Both

automatically apply when a new storage tank system is properly registered and are renewed upon payment of the annual registration fee. Installation permits only apply to certain classes of tanks and must be obtained prior to any construction or installation work being initiated. Fees for these permits are dependent on the size of the tank being installed.

Certified Installers and Inspectors

All tank handling activities associated with a regulated storage tank system must be conducted by a DEP certified tank handler. These activities include things like installation, removal, modifications, repairs, etc. Inspections of regulated tank systems must be accomplished by a DEP certified inspector. DEP certifies individuals through a process that combines experience, qualifications and an examination.

DEP also certifies tank handling companies. Lists of certified companies and individuals are maintained by the Department and are available upon request or can be obtained from the DEP website.

Regulated Storage Tank Requirements

Act 32 also provides for a certain level of technical requirements to be met for all regulated storage tanks. These requirements have been clarified and incorporated into regulations promulgated at Chapter 245 of Title 25 of the Pa. Code. These regulations, entitled "Administration of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Program" are available from the Department upon request.

Reporting Releases

The owner or operator must report a confirmed release to the appropriate DEP regional office within two hours as required by the Corrective Action Process regulations adopted on August 21, 1993 (25 Pa. Code Chapter 245.305). The owner or operator is responsible for preventing further spreading of the release, assessing its impact and taking necessary corrective action measures to clean up any contamination to the environment including to soil, surface waters and groundwater. Also, the owner or operator is responsible for affected/diminished water supplies and any resulting third party damages. Certified tank installers and inspectors are required to report any suspected or confirmed releases that are discovered during tank handling or inspection activities.

Financial Assistance

The Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund (USTIF) consists of fees paid by all owners or operators of registered USTs. USTIF money is only for leaks that occur after February 1, 1994. The fund will not pay for the repair, replacement or maintenance of USTs. The Fund is administered by the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board, Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Contact the board at 717-787-0763 for additional information.

The Environmental Cleanup Program: DEP is no longer accepting new applications for Heating Oil Cleanup assistance until the General Assembly takes action to reauthorize the program. Under the program, reimbursement of up to \$4,000 was available to owners of underground storage tanks with a capacity of 3,000 gallons or less used for storing heating oil for consumption on the premises where stored, to assist with the costs of taking corrective action in response to a release. The release had to have occurred on or after January 30, 1998. For more information, contact the program at 717-783-7509.

The Pollution Prevention Program is administered by DEP's Division of Storage Tanks. This program, known as "Pump and Plug," will reimburse eligible underground tank owners for the costs of pumping, cleaning and plugging their tanks up to \$2,500 per tank. For more information, contact the Division of Storage Tanks at 1-800-42TANKS or 717-772-5599.

The Upgrade Loan Program provides low interest loans to eligible underground storage tank owners for the

purpose of conducting upgrades to meet the federal and state technical requirements. More information can be obtained by contacting the Department of Community and Economic Development at 1-800-379-7448.

Aboveground Storage Tank Emergency Spill Plans

Owners of AST facilities with a total aboveground capacity greater than 21,000 gallons are required to submit a comprehensive Spill Prevention Response Plan to DEP. This Plan describes the storage tank facility and preventive maintenance programs, emergency response counter-measures and spill notification procedures which are to be implemented in response to a release or spill.

For additional information on Pennsylvania's storage tank program or to obtain forms, contact:	
Southeast Region Lee Park, Suite 6010 555 North Lane Conshohocken, PA 19428 610-832-5949 Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia	Northeast Region 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790 570-826-5475 Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming
Southcentral Region 909 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110 717-705-4705 Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York	Northcentral Region 208 West Third Street, Ste. 101 Williamsport, PA 17701 570-321-6525 Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder Sullivan, Tioga and Union
Southwest Region 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 412-442-4000 Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland	Northwest Region 230 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335-3481 814-332-6648 Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren
Central Office Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management Division of Storage Tanks PO Box 8762 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762 717-772-5599 800-42-TANKS (in PA only)	

For more information, please visit the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, Keyword: "DEP Storage Tanks."