

What do the revised EPA UST regulations mean for USTs in Washington?

The EPA’s Office of Underground Storage Tanks finalized a revision of the federal underground storage tank (UST) regulations on June 22, 2015. This is the first time the federal UST regulations have had a major update since 1988.

In Washington, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has delegated authority from the EPA, which means the state’s UST regulations must be at least as stringent as the federal regulations. Ecology has three years, or until October 2018, to update the state UST regulations to incorporate the federal provisions.

A brief summary of EPA UST rule revisions that need to be incorporated into Washington UST rule

Monthly walk-through inspections	Owners and operators will need to conduct monthly walk-through inspections of tank release detection equipment and spill buckets.
Spill bucket testing	Spill buckets must be tested as liquid tight every 3 years. If the spill buckets are double-walled, they can have a monthly interstitial check in lieu of the 3-year test.
Overfill equipment inspection	Overfill equipment must be inspected every 3 years to ensure it will activate at the appropriate level.
Containment sump testing	Containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring of piping must be tested every 3 years to be sure they are liquid tight.
Release detection equipment testing	Release detection equipment must be tested annually to ensure it is operating properly.
Field-constructed tanks and airport hydrant systems	These previously deferred tanks must now perform release detection. Not all airport hydrant systems will be regulated under the revised regulations.
No new ball floats	Ball floats may not be installed in newly-constructed UST systems and cannot be replaced in existing systems, if they are found to be inoperable.
Notification of ownership change	Owners and operators are required to notify Ecology within 30 days when there is a change of ownership.
Compatibility requirement	Owners and operators are required to maintain records of the UST system’s compatibility with substances greater than E10 (i.e. > 10% ethanol) or B20 (i.e. > 20% biodiesel).
Testing following UST repairs	Testing of the UST system is required following a repair, even if that repair is not associated with a release.
Reporting release to interstitial space	A release to the interstitial space is required to be reported to Ecology. This was not considered a reportable release in the 1988 regulation.

The regulatory changes outlined on the previous page are not a complete list of the changes made by the EPA. For more detailed information on the federal rule revision, visit the EPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks revised UST rule webpage at <http://www2.epa.gov/ust/revising-underground-storage-tank-regulations-revisions-existing-requirements-and-new>.

As the rule-making process progresses Ecology's UST webpage will be updated.

Ecology Regional Offices

Please contact the nearest Ecology regional office where your facility is located if you have questions related to the Washington UST rule.

Headquarters: (360) 407-7170

Central Region: (509) 575-2490

Eastern Region: (509) 329-3400

Northwest Region: (425) 649-7000

Southwest Region: (360) 407-6300

Kristopher Grinnell
UST & LUST Coordinator
kristopher.grinnell@ecy.wa.gov
(360) 407-7382



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