

Operator Classes

Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulations that became effective October 1, 2012 require mandatory training for the following three distinct classes of UST operators at each facility.

- **Class A operators** have primary responsibility for the operation and maintenance of UST systems. They assign and ensure training for Class B and C operators.
- **Class B operators** have control of or responsibility for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of UST systems. They may assign and ensure training of Class C operators.
- **Class C operators** are responsible for initially responding to alarms or other indications of emergencies caused by spills, overfills, leaks, or releases from an UST system.

Separate individuals may be designated to each operator class, or an individual may be designated to more than one operator class. When a facility is manned, there must always be at least one Class A, B, or C operator onsite and available to immediately respond to emergencies and spills. In some situations, facilities have all emergency response individuals Class A/B certified and additional Class C operators do not need to be trained.

Deadlines for Training Operators

All current operators should have been designated, trained and certified by December 31, 2012. After that date, new operators must be trained as follows:

- Class A and Class B - within 60 days of assuming duties
- Class C - before assuming duties

Training Options

Class A and Class B operators are required to successfully complete a training program provided by an Ecology-approved vendor found on a list available at the link below. *Most of these vendors offer one training, which fulfills training for both Class A and B and certifies operators as Class A/B operators.* Ecology may also allow reciprocity for Class A and B operators previously trained in another state, if the training is not site-specific.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/OperatorTraining/OperatorTraining.html>

Class C operators must successfully complete either an Ecology-approved training program or a training provided by a certified Class A or Class B operator.

Recordkeeping

Owners and operators must maintain records onsite documenting all currently designated Class A, B, and C operators. Proof of operator training will be requested by an inspector during compliance inspections or when necessary. If a certified Class A or B operator provides training for Class C operators at a facility, it must be properly documented. For your convenience, you may use the following Ecology form to keep track of your Class C operators: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070494.html>

If you do not have access to the internet or you prefer to speak with Ecology staff, please contact the UST inspector in your regional Ecology office.

Special accommodations:

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, please call (360) 407-6000 and ask for the Toxics Cleanup Program. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.