



# Petroleum Storage Tanks: Am I Regulated?

## Underground Storage Tanks

Owners of certain underground storage tanks (USTs) existing on or after September 1, 1987 are required to register these tanks with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), unless the tanks were emptied and filled in place before January 1, 1974. USTs that are empty or unused are still required to be registered.

A UST is defined under Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Section 334.2 as any one or combination of underground tanks and any connecting underground pipes used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances, the volume of which, including the volume of the connecting underground pipes, is ten percent or more beneath the surface of the ground.

Regulated USTs include those containing petroleum substances such as:

- gasoline,
- diesel,
- biodiesel blended with No. 1 or No. 2 diesel,
- gasoline blended with alcohol,
- new or used oil,
- jet fuel,

and those containing hazardous substances such as:

- acetone,
- methyl ethyl ketone, and
- numerous other chemicals listed as hazardous substances in the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), which are not regulated as hazardous wastes under the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act.

USTs containing substances that are not a liquid at standard temperature (60° F) and pressure (14.7 psi) do not need to be registered.

Other USTs commonly exempted from TCEQ regulations include:

- farm or residential tanks with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less,
- heating oil tanks,
- septic tanks,
- flow-through process tanks, and
- sumps with a capacity of less than 110 gallons.

Hydraulic lifts are excluded from registration requirements, but are still subject to release reporting and cleanup action.

Tank owners should use the TCEQ's **Underground Storage Tank Registration and Self-Certification Form (TCEQ-0724)** to initially register USTs, provide annual self-certification information for motor fuel tanks, and to change or amend registered tank information. Within 30 days of any change, tank owners should submit a signed and dated amended form to the TCEQ indicating tank removals, owner changes, address changes, release detection upgrades, financial responsibility information, or any other changes.

Owners or operators of USTs containing motor fuel are required to certify compliance with certain technical and administrative requirements. Once the UST owner or operator has self-certified compliance, the TCEQ will issue a delivery certificate. A valid delivery certificate is required in order to receive deliveries of petroleum motor fuel into regulated USTs.

Self-certification is an annual requirement and a Registration and Self-certification form must be completed and sent to the TCEQ each year in order to receive a current delivery certificate.

The month of expiration will be based on the last digit of the TCEQ-assigned owner ID number.

A legible tag showing the tank identification number (as it was reported to the agency on the self-certification form) must be permanently affixed to or near the top of the fill tube.

A 90-day TCEQ temporary delivery authorization may be used in lieu of a delivery certificate in limited situations when the TCEQ has received a construction notification form indicating the pending installation of a new or replacement tank. See the requirements at 30 TAC 334.8(c)(5)(D).

Agency issuance of a delivery certificate does not constitute agency certification or affirmation of the compliance status of the tanks in question.

## Aboveground Storage Tanks

The TCEQ also requires some aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) to be registered. Regulated ASTs include those which have a capacity of more than 1,100 gallons and which store a petroleum product that can propel motor vehicles. By this definition, petroleum products include:

- gasoline,
- diesel,
- biodiesel blended with No. 1 or No. 2 diesel,
- kerosene,
- gasohol or other alcohol blended fuels,
- aviation gasoline, and
- distillate fuel oil.

ASTs containing new or **used oil or jet fuel** do not need to be registered.

Owners of regulated ASTs need to file an **Aboveground Storage Tank Registration Form (TCEQ-0659)** with the TCEQ. As with USTs, the AST information must be amended within 30 days of any change by using the same form. Tank owners are required to provide proof of registration before regulated substances can be deposited in an aboveground tank. As an acknowledgement of registration, the TCEQ issues official certificates of registration. These certificates should be displayed at the actual tank location to serve as necessary proof of registration upon delivery.

### For more information:

This document is intended to act as an introduction to the requirements for petroleum storage tank registration and self-certification. It is not intended to be a comprehensive restatement of the statutory and regulatory requirements, and should not be used as a substitute for the actual sources of those requirements. PST rules are located at 30 TAC 334.

If you need additional information or have any questions regarding registration of underground and aboveground storage tanks, please see our Web site at:

<[www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/registration/pst/Am\\_I\\_Regulated.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/registration/pst/Am_I_Regulated.html)>

Or contact the TCEQ's Petroleum Storage Tank Registration Team at 512-239-2160.