



# Licensed Underground Storage Tank Contractors

## Selecting the proper contractor to work on your UST system

### A guide for owners and operators of USTs

This is module c of the PST Super Guide, a comprehensive guide to issues relating to petroleum storage tanks (PSTs). This super guide provides an overview to laws and regulations for PSTs and it can be used as an aid in minimizing potential risks. The guide does not replace those laws and regulations which take precedence over any information in this publication.

Module c explains how to select an appropriate contractor to work on your underground storage tanks (USTs).

- You, the owner or operator of a PST, are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- If your UST system is located in Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, or Williamson County, additional requirements related to protecting the Edwards or the Trinity Aquifer may apply (Title 30, Texas Administrative Code [30 TAC], Chapters 213 and 214).
- In addition to the laws and TCEQ rules, local governments and other state and federal agencies may have rules that apply.

### Who Should I Hire?

The TCEQ regulates occupational licenses and registrations with regard to USTs. It is important that you contract with the appropriate company or person to perform any necessary work. See 30 TAC 30 (Occupational Licenses and Registrations), Subchapters E (Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank Corrective Action Project Managers and Specialists) and I (Underground Storage Tank On-Site Supervisor Licensing and Contractor Registration). For instructions on how to find licensed UST contractors, go to [www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst\\_rp/license\\_ust.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/license_ust.html).

TCEQ issues occupational licenses and regulates UST contractors and on-site supervisors but does not endorse specific contractors. Conducting due diligence before hiring a contractor can help confirm that the contractor is reputable and qualified. Be sure to verify that they have a valid license and ask them for proof of liability insurance. To find licensed contractors in your area, verify that a license has not expired, or obtain guidance on how to search for one, go to [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst\\_rp/license\\_ust.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/license_ust.html).

After verifying that a contractor's license is valid, you may also consider requesting references about experience or sites where they worked.

## Why do I need a Licensed Contractor?

Licensing and registration requirements exist because working on a UST system requires detailed technical knowledge. Be sure to check the expiration date on the contractor's license and ask for proof of liability insurance before allowing work to begin on your UST system. This guide should help you to determine when to use a licensed person to perform work on your UST system. Additionally, Table 1 summarizes which licensees can perform various tasks related to a UST system.

## Definitions

**Underground storage tank contractor.** A person (business or individual) who installs, repairs, or removes a UST (or offers to, or self-represents as able to do so) and meets registration requirements.

**On-site supervisor.** An individual who supervises the installation, repair, or removal of a UST and who meets licensing requirements. There are three levels of licensing, each with its own responsibilities.

**Critical juncture.** A UST installation, repair, or removal activity that includes any of the following steps:

- preparing the tank bedding immediately before receiving a tank;
- setting a tank and its piping, including placement of anchoring devices, backfilling to the level of the tank, and strapping;
- connecting piping systems to a tank;
- pressure testing a UST and its associated piping during installation;
- completing backfill and filling the excavation;
- any repair involving connection (or reconnection) of a piping system to a tank;
- any time during repair when the tank or its associated piping is tested; or
- any time during the removal of the UST.

**Corrosion specialist.** An individual who has knowledge of the physical sciences and the principles of engineering and mathematics acquired by a professional degree and related experience, and is either:

- certified as a corrosion specialist or a cathodic protection specialist by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) International; or
- licensed as a professional engineer in Texas in a branch of engineering that includes education and experience in corrosion control of metal tanks and piping.

**Corrosion technician.** A person who is qualified by training and experience and who is certified as a corrosion technician, corrosion technologist, or senior corrosion technologist by NACE International; employed under the direct supervision of a corrosion specialist; or certified as a cathodic protection tester by NACE International or by the Steel Tank Institute.

**Corrective action.** Any assessment, monitoring, and remedial activities undertaken to investigate the extent of, and to remediate, contamination.

**LPST Corrective Action Specialist (CAS).** A person who has at least two years of experience and is registered with TCEQ to perform regulated corrective actions at leaking petroleum storage tank (LPST) sites.

**LPST Corrective Action Project Manager (CAPM).** A person who is licensed with the TCEQ to perform or supervise regulated corrective actions at LPST sites.

## Contractors for Leaking Petroleum Storage Tanks

Once you confirm a UST leak at your facility, you must hire a registered LPST contractor to perform regulated corrective actions on the USTs. A corrective action specialist must be registered with TCEQ in order to perform corrective actions at an LPST site, and must maintain at least \$1 million of liability insurance. To oversee the work done by a CAS, a CAPM is required to be on the LPST site while work is conducted. For more information on release reporting and locating a CAPM and/or CAS, reference *Suspected and Confirmed Releases from Petroleum Storage Tanks* (TCEQ publication RG-475h).

For instructions on how to find contractors to clean up LPSTs, go to [www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst\\_rp/license.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/license.html). Also see Table 1, which summarizes which licensees can perform various tasks related to a UST system.

**Table 1.** UST license levels and the work each license holder can perform.

UST Contractor License	On-Site Supervisor Class A	On-Site Supervisor Class B	On-Site Supervisor Class A/B Combination	Corrosion Specialist	Corrosion Technician
UST Installation	X		X		
Repair (upgrades and replacements)	X		X		
Removal		X	X		
Design of corrosion protection system				X	
Corrosion testing				X	X
Pressure testing (during installation and repair)	X		X		
Secondary containment	X		X		
Installation or replacement of vent lines	X		X		
Installation or replacement of submersible pumps	X		X		

UST Contractor License	On-Site Supervisor Class A	On-Site Supervisor Class B	On-Site Supervisor Class A/B Combination	Corrosion Specialist	Corrosion Technician
Installation of equipment to test tightness of tank or piping	X		X		
Installation of permanent release detection and monitoring equipment	X		X		
Addition or replacement of spill or overfill equipment	X		X		
Installation of stage I equipment	X		X		
<p>A registered UST contractor is required to maintain \$1 million liability insurance.</p> <p>A UST contractor must have a supervisor on-site at all times during critical junctures of installation, repair, or removal, as defined in 30 TAC 30.307.</p> <p>A UST contractor must prominently display his or her registration number on all bids, proposals, offers, and installation drawings.</p>					

## Exemptions from Licensing

The following activities do not require a license:

- the initial abatement of a release or emergency actions to stop leaks or ruptures;
- an individual who assists with the installation, repair, or removal of a UST system under the direct, on-site supervision of a licensed on-site supervisor;
- work on a system that is not regulated, exempt, completely excluded, or partially excluded under 30 TAC 334;
- changing dispenser filters; or
- replacing nozzles, hoses, or breakaways.

## Where do I find more information?

Requirements for occupational licenses and registrations for LPST corrective action project managers and specialists are located in 30 TAC 30, Subchapter E available at [texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=30&pt=1&ch=30&sch=E&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=30&pt=1&ch=30&sch=E&rl=Y).

UST on-site supervisor licensing and contractor registration requirements are located in 30 TAC 30, Subchapter I available at [texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=30&pt=1&ch=30&sch=I&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=30&pt=1&ch=30&sch=I&rl=Y).

Links to additional webpages about registering PSTs, technical requirements for regulated PSTs, and LPST cleanup are available at [www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/pst\\_cert.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/pst_cert.html).

Requirements for UST systems in the Edwards Aquifer are in 30 TAC 213 available at [texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=213](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=213).

Requirements for UST systems over other aquifers are in 30 TAC 214 available at [texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=214&r1=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=214&r1=Y).

Instructions for how to find licensed UST contractors are available at [www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst\\_rp/license\\_ust.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/license_ust.html).

Sample field citation at [www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/compliance/field\\_ops/citation/20270pst-web-version.pdf](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/compliance/field_ops/citation/20270pst-web-version.pdf).

For confidential environmental compliance assistance for small businesses and local governments, contact Small Business and Local Government Assistance via the hot line at 800-447-2827 or online at [www.TexasEnviroHelp.org](http://www.TexasEnviroHelp.org).