TCEQ REGULATORY GUIDANCE
Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division
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Licensed Contractors for Underground Storage Tanks

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 of laws and regulations for PSTs and can be used as an aid in minimizing potential risks. The guide does not replace laws and regulations which take precedence over any information in this publication.

Who should use this guide?

Underground storage tank (UST) owners and operators should use *module c* to learn how to select an appropriate contractor to work on their underground storage tanks. UST owners and operators should note the following:

- You, the owner or operator of a PST, are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- If your PST system is located in Medina, Bexar, Comal, Kinney, Uvalde, 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],[1] 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.

For more compliance information, contact Small Business and Local Government Assistance at 800-447-2827 or TexasEnviroHelp@tceq.texas.gov.

Why do I need a licensed contractor?

Licensing and registration requirements exist because working on UST systems requires detailed technical knowledge. TCEQ regulates and issues 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.

This guide should help you to determine when to use a licensed individual to perform work on your UST system. See Table 1 for a summary of which licensees can perform the various tasks related to a UST system.

As a reminder, you must notify TCEQ of any UST installation, removal, or repair. Use the construction notification form[2] (TCEQ-00495) to notify at least 30 days before

1. www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/view-30tac
2. www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/permitting/waste-registration/forms/pst/0495.pdf

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starting construction. For more information, see our Aboveground and Underground Storage Tank Construction Notification[3] webpage.

Types of contractors

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: On-site Supervisor A, On-site Supervisor B, and On-site Supervisor A&B. Table 1 summarizes the activities that each on-site supervisor level can perform.

Table 1. UST On-site Supervisor license levels and the activity each license holder can perform.

UST On-site Supervisor License Level	On-Site Supervisor Class A	On-Site Supervisor Class B	On-Site Supervisor Class A/B Combination
UST Installation	X		X
Repair (upgrades and replacements)	X		X
Removal		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

3. www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/registration/pst/ast_ust_notification.html

UST On-site Supervisor License Level	On-Site Supervisor Class A	On-Site Supervisor Class B	On-Site Supervisor Class A/B Combination
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

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 former National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) International, now Association of Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP).
- 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 AMPP (formerly NACE International); employed under the direct supervision of a corrosion specialist; or certified as a cathodic protection tester by AMPP (formerly NACE International) or by the Steel Tank Institute.

LPST Corrective Action Specialist (CAS). A person or entity that 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.

Who should I hire?

Any activity to install, repair, or remove a UST must be conducted by a registered UST contractor. A licensed UST on-site supervisor must also be present at all times during the critical junctures of an installation, repair, or removal of a UST.

A critical juncture is 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.
- Any time during the removal of the UST.

TCEQ does not endorse specific contractors. Conducting due diligence before hiring a contractor can help confirm that the contractor is reputable and qualified. A UST contractor must prominently display his or her registration number on all bids, proposals, offers, and installation drawings. Contractors are also required to maintain $1 million liability insurance.

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.

To find licensed contractors in your area or verify that a license has not expired, visit our Find Contractors to Install or Remove Underground Storage Tanks[4] webpage.

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

Leaking Petroleum Storage Tanks Contractors

If a leak is confirmed, and your UST facility is designated as a LPST site, you must hire a CAS to perform regulated corrective action services. A CAS must be registered with TCEQ and must maintain at least $1 million of liability insurance. All corrective action services must be performed or coordinated by a CAS and supervised by a licensed CAPM. Corrective action includes any assessment, monitoring, and remedial activities undertaken to investigate the extent of, and to remediate, contamination.

Visit our Find Contractors to Clean up Leaking Petroleum Storage Tanks[5] webpage to find registered CAS and CAPM contractors.

4. www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/license_ust.html
5. www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/license.html

You can find more information on release reporting and locating a CAPM and/or CAS in our Suspected and Confirmed Releases from Petroleum Storage Tanks[6] (RG-475h) guidance document.

What activities are exempt from licensing?

The following activities are exempt and do not require a license:

- 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, meaning it is completely exempt or excluded, or partially excluded under 30 TAC Chapter 334.
- Changing dispenser filters.
- Replacing nozzles, hoses, or breakaways.

Where do I find more information?

Find complete requirements in 30 TAC[7] for:

- LPST corrective action project managers and specialists licensing requirements (30 TAC Chapter 30, Subchapter E).
- UST on-site supervisor licensing and contractor registration requirements (30 TAC Chapter 30, Subchapter I).
- Tanks in the Edwards Aquifer (30 TAC Chapter 213).
- Tanks over other aquifers (30 TAC Chapter 214).

Other online resources include:

- Forms for PST facilities.[8]
- PST Compliance Resources[9] developed by our Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) program.
- Links to additional webpages about registering PSTs, technical requirements for regulated PSTs, and LPST cleanup are available on the Petroleum Storage Tanks Registration[10] webpage.
- TCEQ's forms and publications search.[11]

6. www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/assistance/publications/rg-475h-suspected-and-confirmed-releases-from-psts
7. texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=30&pt=1
8. www.tceq.texas.gov/remediation/pst_rp/downloads.html
9. www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/pst
10. www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/pst_cert.html
11. www.tceq.texas.gov/publications