



TCEQ REGULATORY GUIDANCE

Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division
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Training for Underground Storage Tank Operators

This is *module o* 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 should use *module o* to understand the required training for UST operators. 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 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 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.

Who must be trained?

As required by federal law, TCEQ requires operators of UST systems to be trained in performing compliance functions at their facilities. Owners and operators of regulated UST systems must comply with the operator training requirements listed in [30 TAC Chapter 334, Subchapter N](#).²

Each facility needs at least one person certified for each class of operator—classes A, B, and C. One person may hold more than one operator classification. At least one of the certified operators must be present at the facility during hours of operation.

1. www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/view-30tac
2. www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/subchaptern

What if my facility is unmanned?

Unmanned facilities³ must post a weather-resistant sign that is clearly visible from any dispenser. The sign should include the following

- Basic safety procedures
- The 24-hour contact number monitored by a Class A, B, or C operator for the facility
- Instructions on when to call 911

What are the three classes of operators, and how do they differ?

Class A operators are responsible for ensuring proper operation and maintenance of a UST system. Class A operators must also know the regulations that apply to UST systems, including but not limited to:

- system components and product compatibility
- spill and overfill prevention and control
- corrosion protection
- release detection
- release reporting and response
- temporary and permanent closure
- financial responsibility

This role is typically filled by the facility owner, or by a manager who oversees the resources and personnel to maintain compliance with UST regulations. An individual may be designated as a Class A operator for one or more facilities.

Class B operators are responsible for ensuring that all applicable UST requirements are being implemented at the facility, including day-to-day UST operations, maintenance, and recordkeeping. This includes a detailed knowledge of the components listed above for a Class A operator. Additionally, the designated Class B operator for a facility must ensure that all Class C operators at that facility receive the required training.

This role is typically filled by the facility manager or a person with UST site-specific technical expertise. An individual may be designated as a Class B operator for up to 50 facilities.

A **Class C operator** of a UST system must be trained in both general and facility-specific emergency response procedures. This knowledge must include an understanding of:

- The operation of the emergency shutoff equipment
- The initial response procedures following system alarm warnings
- The first-response actions to releases, spills, or overfills

3. Attendants are not routinely present during normal course of business.

- How to notify emergency responders and the designated Class A and Class B operators of the UST system

This role is typically filled by the facility clerks. Class C operator training is only applicable at the specific facility for which the training was provided.

Class A and Class B operators must maintain the emergency procedures on-site for easy access by Class C operators.

What type of training is required?

Class A and B operators must complete a TCEQ-approved operator training course or process. The courses:

- May include classroom or online training performed by, contracted for, or approved by the TCEQ.
- Must include an evaluation of operator knowledge through testing, practical demonstration, or other TCEQ-accepted measure.

All training providers must verify the training via a written or electronic certificate stating the classification and date. Maintain every certificate at the UST facility and submit a copy to the TCEQ with the annual self-certification.

Find training information and a list of approved training providers on our [UST Class A and Class B Operator Training](#)⁴ webpage.

Class C operator training programs must meet the minimum TCEQ requirements but do not require approval from TCEQ. Their format can be in-class, hands-on, online, or any other format deemed acceptable by the Class B operator. Class B operators must sign, date, and verify the list of all trained Class C operators for a facility, and give it to the owner or operator of that UST facility. The list must include the dates of their training and be kept current with any personnel changes.

How often must operators take courses?

All operators must be retrained within three years of their last training date.

Table 1. Training renewal deadlines

Operator Class	Renewal Frequency	Required Training
Class A	Every 3 Years	TCEQ-approved
Class B	Every 3 Years	TCEQ-approved
Class C	Every 3 Years	Training approved or given by Class B Operator

If the TCEQ determines that a facility is in significant noncompliance, the Class B operator must retake a TCEQ-approved compliance class. Significant noncompliance includes the failure to provide release detection, spill and overfill prevention and control, corrosion protection, or financial assurance.

4. www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/ust-training

What records do I need to keep?

Owners and operators of UST facilities must maintain required operator training certificates on-site (except unmanned facilities). Documentation may be maintained off-site electronically if the facility can produce a clear, printed copy to the TCEQ within 72 hours of an investigation.

Owners and operators of unmanned facilities must supply documentation as requested by a TCEQ (or authorized) investigator.

Where can I find more information?

Find complete requirements in [30 TAC](#)⁵ for:

- Operator Training (30 TAC Chapter 334, Subchapter N)
- Tanks in the Edwards Aquifer (30 TAC Chapter 213)
- Tanks over other aquifers (30 TAC Chapter 214)

Other online resources include:

- [Compliance resources for PST facilities](#)⁶ developed by our Small Business and Local Government Assistance program.
- Links to additional webpages about registering PST, technical requirements for regulated PSTs, and leaking petroleum storage tank cleanup are available on the [Petroleum Storage Tanks webpage](#).⁷
- [TCEQ form and publication search](#).⁸

5. www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/view-30tac

6. www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/pst

7. www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/pst_cert.html

8. www.tceq.texas.gov/publications