

Air Quality Requirements for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities

In Dec. 2007 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized rules for controlling hazardous air pollutant emissions at gasoline dispensing facilities. In Dec. 2008 the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) finalized rules to implement the federal rules in Oregon.

Gasoline vapors contain benzene, a known cancer-causing chemical. Controlling gasoline vapors reduces benzene exposures at and near gasoline dispensing facilities, contributes to continuing compliance with federal ozone standards, and conserves gasoline.

Requirements for Oregon Facilities

Gasoline dispensing facilities are required to follow federal and state work practice standards to reduce spills and equipment standards (known as submerged fill pipes and Stage I vapor recovery) to reduce and recover vapors produced during the filling of under- and above-ground gasoline storage tanks.

In Oregon, these facilities are also expected to follow the “no top off” rule by allowing the pump to auto stop, preventing spilled fuel and harmful vapors. Topping off often causes the customer to pay for more gas than they receive, and in some cases, that extra fuel will ruin a vehicle’s vapor capture system.

Topping Off Rules

All gas stations and other types of fueling facilities in Oregon are required to comply with the “Don’t Top Off!” rule. This rule takes advantage of widely-used technology and requires facilities to post signs to inform employees and customers.

The ban allows a station attendant to continue dispensing after the nozzle clicks off, as long as the attendant confirms that the tank is not full (such as by checking the vehicle’s fuel tank gauge) and uses best judgment and caution to prevent a spill.

Find more information about the [Don’t Top Off!](#) rule on DEQ’s website and get copies of a “Don’t Top Off!” poster and flyer.

Submerged Fill Rules

Submerged fill pipes are required at all gasoline dispensing facilities. Submerged fill pipes installed before Nov. 9, 2006 must be within twelve inches of the bottom of the tank.

Submerged fill pipes installed on or after Nov. 9, 2006 must be within six inches of the tank bottom. Tanks with capacities less than 250 gallons do not require submerged fill pipes.

Stage I Vapor Recovery Rules

Stage I vapor recovery systems capture vapors normally emitted during the filling of gasoline storage tanks, and return those vapors to the gasoline delivery truck to keep them from being emitted to the air. This is accomplished by installing vapor-tight connectors on all submerged fill pipes and gasoline cargo tanker trucks.

Required Stage I vapor recovery systems:

Facilities with monthly throughputs of **100,000 gallons of gasoline** or more:

- New or reconstructed facilities and any tanks installed after Jan. 10, 2011: Dual-point vapor balance system.
- Existing facilities: Single-point vapor balance system.

Facilities with annual throughput of **480,000 gallons of gasoline** or more:

- New, existing or reconstructed facilities: Single-point vapor balance system.

Tanks with a capacity of less than 250 gallons are not required to have a vapor balance system.

All facilities required to have Stage I vapor recovery equipment are required to have pressure/vacuum (P/V) vent valves installed on all vent lines to allow testing of the system to be performed.

Initial Notification

All gasoline dispensing facilities are required to submit an initial notification to DEQ and include their monthly and annual throughput. The notification helps DEQ determine if the facility is subject to the gasoline dispensing rules.

NOTE: Calculate the volume of gasoline loaded into and dispensed at your facility each day. To determine annual throughput, calculate the volume of gasoline loaded into or dispensed from the gasoline storage tanks at your facility during the current day and the previous 364 days. To determine monthly throughput, divide the annual throughput by 12.



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Notification of Compliance Status

All gasoline dispensing facilities are required to submit a [notification of compliance status](#) to DEQ.

Permitting

Gasoline dispensing facilities with a rolling 365 day total throughput of gasoline that exceeds 120,000 gallons or more are required to have a permit. Most facilities subject to permitting have been assigned to a [General Air Contaminant Discharge Permit](#).

Annual Permit Fees

Gasoline dispensing facilities in the Portland area assigned to an air permit and required to have Stage II vapor recovery equipment are required to pay an annual fee of \$432. All other permitted gasoline dispensing facilities are required to pay an annual fee of \$144.

Operation and Maintenance

To ensure that vapor balance equipment is maintained vapor-tight and in good working order, gasoline dispensing facilities are required to periodically inspect the equipment to discover potential or actual equipment defects. Facilities are also required to replace, repair or modify any worn or ineffective component or design element within 24 hours to ensure vapor-tight integrity, and efficiency of the vapor balance system.

If repair parts need to be ordered, the order must be placed within two days and parts installed within five working days after receipt. Results of periodic inspections, repairs and replacements must be maintained on an inspection form provided by DEQ.

Testing

Gasoline dispensing facilities with monthly throughput of 100,000 gallons of gasoline or more are required to test their Stage I vapor recovery systems by:

- Existing facilities: July 9, 2011;
- New facilities: upon installation;
- All facilities: every three years thereafter.

Gasoline dispensing facilities with annual throughput of 480,000 gallons or more and monthly throughput of less than 100,000 gallons of gasoline are required to test their Stage I vapor recovery system upon installation of a complete vapor balance system or a new tank.

Reporting of Test Results

Results of all tests must be reported within 30 days of test completion. Mail copies to the permit coordinator at the appropriate DEQ office (listed below).

Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington Counties:

Northwest Region Office
700 NE Multnomah St.
Portland, OR 97232
503-229-5263

Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties:

Western Region
4026 Fairview Industrial Dr.,
Salem, OR 97302
503-378-8240

Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler Counties:

Eastern Region Office
475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701
541-388-6146

Recordkeeping

Facilities are required to keep the following records for five years and make them available for review during a site inspection:

- Results of all performance testing
- Records related to the operation and maintenance of Stage I equipment
- Records of total monthly throughput of gasoline
- Records of any permanent changes at the facility that may affect emissions

Annual Reporting

Facilities are required to submit an [annual report](#) by Feb. 15.

Compliance Inspections

Between Aug. 8, 2010 and Jan. 10, 2011, DEQ's underground storage tank inspectors conducted technical assistance inspections for compliance with the topping off rules and any installed Stage I equipment. Facility owners were notified of non-compliance issues observed during the inspection. Since the Jan. 10, 2011 Stage I compliance deadline, any future noted deficiencies will result in DEQ enforcement action.

Contact DEQ

If you have questions about the gasoline dispensing facility requirements, or need assistance, please contact a [DEQ representative](#) in your area.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ Public Affairs for more information 503-229-5696.

People with hearing impairments may call 711.