

Distributors' Responsibilities for Depositing Fuel into USTs

Background

Distributors of gasoline and diesel fuel play an important role in protecting Oregon's environment by delivering fuel (regulated substances) only into underground storage tanks (USTs) that have been issued an operating certificate.

New state rules went into effect March 10, 2008, requiring owners and permittees of regulated USTs to obtain an annual operating certificate from DEQ (see **example on page 2**). Facilities must have a valid operating certificate in order to receive fuel deliveries.

To receive an operating certificate, facilities must show proof of financial responsibility (insurance), pay an annual compliance fee (\$135) per tank and pay any civil penalties associated with tanks at their property. Beginning June 5, 2008, DEQ will mail to qualifying facilities new operating certificates with an expiration date of June 30, 2009.

Expectations for distributors

DEQ expects distributors to:

- Avoid depositing fuel into an UST at a facility that does not have an operating certificate.
- Obtain and maintain for three years a written or electronic record of operating certificate numbers for every UST facility receiving fuel. This includes recording tank identification numbers for each tank that receives fuel.
- Provide to DEQ, upon request, a written record of all USTs (regulated or not) into which it deposited fuel.
- Inform potentially non-compliant owners of USTs how to get in touch with DEQ to register their USTs and obtain an operating certificate.

Expectations for UST owners or permittees

DEQ expects UST owners and permittees to:

- Provide the operating certificate and tank identification numbers to distributors before arranging a delivery of fuel.

- If an operating certificate expires, is revoked, suspended or terminated, provide written notice of the change to anyone who deposited fuel into the UST in the past.

Verifying operating certificate numbers

Distributors can obtain operating certificate numbers from DEQ by downloading a list of current operating certificate numbers from DEQ's Web site at:
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/tanks/tanklists.htm>

In addition, they can obtain a printed copy by calling 800-742-7878 (toll-free in Oregon) or 503-229-6658 (Portland metro area) and requesting the *UST Facilities with Operating Certificates Allowing Fuel Deliveries List*.

Conversely, at the same Web site or telephone number listed above, you can obtain a list of tanks and/or facilities not authorized to receive fuel or other regulated substances. That list is entitled: *UST Facilities Without Valid Operating Certificates that Cannot Receive Fuel*.

Penalties for non-compliance

DEQ's underground storage tank inspectors may audit distributor records to determine compliance with these requirements. Any distributor found to be depositing regulated substances at a facility without a current operating certificate or into an UST without an identification number may be subject to:

- A field citation of up to \$50 per violation not to exceed \$1,500.
- A civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation per day of violation.
- A criminal penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation or a year imprisonment, or both. Each day is considered a separate violation.

Alternative formats

Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Land Quality Division
Underground Storage
Tank Program
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-6704
(800) 742-7878
Fax: (503) 229-6954
Contact: Mitch Scheel
www.oregon.gov/DEQ/

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By: Mitch Scheel
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A valid "Operating Certificate Number" is made up of four parts as follows:

XX – the first two digits (from 01 to 36) are a numeral code for the County in which the facility is located

XXXXX- the next series of up to five digits, are a unique facility identification number

XXXX – the next four digits represent the year the operating certificate was issued

OPER – the last four letters are short for "Operating Certificate" if the facility is actively using the USTs



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

CERTIFICATE TO OPERATE

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE NUMBER:

24-7752-2008-OPER

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION

SALEM MOTOR POOL
1100 AIRPORT RD SE
SALEM, OR 97301-6082

PERMITTEE

Richard Maxwell
Oregon Dept of Administrative Services
1100 Airport Rd SE
Salem, OR 97301-6082

TANK PERMIT

BCHHJ
BCHJK
BCHJA
BCHJB

TANK ID NO

1A
3A
4A
5A

TANKS SIZE

20,000 Gallons
20,000 Gallons
1,000 Gallons
600 Gallons

TANK CONTENTS

Gasoline
Diesel
MOTOR OIL
Used Oil

CERTIFICATE EXPIRES: June 30, 2009

ISSUE DATE: 05/15/2008

Andree Pollock

Andree Pollock, UST Program Manager
Land Quality Division

Post this certificate where it is visible to the person delivering fuel.