



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DATE: August 10, 2010

RE: Storage Tank Third-Party Inspection Frequencies

Please note that the definitions of regulated aboveground and underground storage tanks including exemptions are listed in Section 245.1 of Title 25 of the PA Code. Occasionally the Department may ask for more frequent inspections based on recurring facility problems. Detailed inspection requirements should be reviewed in the sections noted below. This information is current as of this date and could change in the future.

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

Regulated USTs (tanks greater than 110 gallons) – Chapter 245.411

- ~ Newly installed tanks - within 6-12 months
- ~ Change in ownership - within 6-12 months
- ~ Regular inspection intervals shall not exceed 36 months from the last inspection
- ~ For lined USTs see 245.432(d) for additional third party inspection requirements

Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs)

Small regulated ASTs – Chapter 245.616

- ~ Small *field constructed* ASTs (greater than 250 gallons - 21,000 gallons) - inspection during installation, reconstruction or relocation and when a major modification is performed on tank shell or bottom plates
- ~ Small ASTs storing highly hazardous substances (greater than 1,100 gallons - 21,000 gallons) - within 10 years of installation and every 10 years thereafter*
- ~ Small ASTs (greater than 5,000 gallons - 21,000 gallons) - within 10 years of installation and every 10 years thereafter* **Note:** Chapter 245.523(11) - Vaulted ASTs installed after October 11, 1997, used to store Class I or II motor fuels for resale must perform release detection on associated underground piping in accordance with Chapter 245.445. This may involve annual testing and/or monthly monitoring of the release detection equipment. It is recommended that these tank systems are inspected at a more frequent basis to maintain compliance.

*The regulations require more frequent inspections when corrosion, deterioration, or other specific conditions necessitate.

Large regulated ASTs (over 21,000 gallons) – Chapter 245.551 (for lined ASTs also see 245.534(c))

Installation and Modifications – Chapter 245.554

- ~ At time of installation, major modifications, relocations or reconstructions

In-service (IS) – Chapter 245.552 (may be replaced by an Out-of-service inspection)

- ~ First IS inspection: within 5 years of installation
- ~ Additional IS inspections: at the API 653 calculated service life method or 1/4 of the corrosion rate life, with a maximum of 5 years in from the last IS inspection

Out-of-service (OS) – Chapter 245.553

- ~ First OS inspection: at the API 653 calculated service life method or 1/2 of the corrosion rate life or, if corrosion rates unknown, within 10 years of installation
- ~ Additional OS inspections: at the API 653 calculated service life method or 1/2 the corrosion rate life, with a maximum of 20 years from the last OS inspection