

Operator Training in Brief: What you need to know

After June 28, 2010, all regulated underground storage tank facilities must have emergency procedures and notification information readily available at the facility or in the case of unmanned facilities, posted within sight of the facility user.

At a minimum these written instructions or procedures should include the following information:

Posted Procedures for Unmanned Facilities (Class C operator may be 2-hours away)

1. Contact phone number that will reach Class C operator or owner – may be central dispatcher or 24-hour answering service.
 2. Emergency phone numbers: police, fire, hazardous response, 911.
 3. Physical address of facility (includes street address, municipality, and county).
 4. Procedures necessary in response to an alarm associated with the release detection equipment (if applicable).
 5. Procedures necessary in response to a spill.
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Posted Procedures for Facilities with Class C Operator Present

1. Contact phone number that will reach Class A and Class B operator – may be central dispatcher or 24-hour answering service.
2. Emergency phone numbers: police, fire, hazardous response, 911.
3. Physical address of facility (includes street address, municipality, and county).
4. Procedures necessary in response to an alarm associated with the release detection equipment (if applicable).
5. Procedures necessary in response to a spill.

After August 8, 2012, all active regulated underground storage tank facilities must have at least one designated Class A, B, and C operator.

Class A operator. A Class A operator has primary responsibility to operate and maintain the underground storage tank system and facility. In general, this person focuses on the broader aspects of the statutory and regulatory requirements and standards necessary to properly operate and maintain the underground storage tank system and facility.

Class B operator. A Class B operator implements applicable underground storage tank regulatory requirements and standards in the field or at the storage tank facility. This person oversees and implements the day-to-day aspects of operations, maintenance and recordkeeping for the underground storage tanks at one or more facilities.

Class C operator. A Class C operator is the first line of response to events indicating emergency conditions. This person is responsible for responding to alarms or other indications of emergencies caused by spills or releases from underground storage tank systems and equipment failures.

How do I meet the requirements?

1. Class A and B operators must become qualified by completing a Department-approved course. For updated information on course availability, visit the Division of Storage Tanks website or contact the Division of Storage Tanks at 717-772-5599 or if calling from within Pennsylvania, call 1-800-42TANKS.
2. Class C operators must be trained by either the underground storage tank owner or the Class A or B operator.
3. A Class C operator must be briefed annually on emergency procedures following initial training.

What happens if an ownership change occurs or new people are hired?

1. If an ownership change occurs, any new Class A and B operators must be designated and trained within 30 days of the change of ownership.
2. If a Class A and/or B operator is replaced at a Facility, the Class A and/or B operator must be trained within 30 days of assuming their job duties.
3. A Class C operator must be trained by either the tank owner or Class A or B operator before beginning their job duties.

What if I don't sell fuel to the public? Does this make a difference?

1. All active regulated underground facilities must have at least one Class A, Class B, and Class C operator designated for that facility.
2. The only difference between retail and non-retail facilities pertains to the Class C operator and emergency procedure posting requirements.
 - a. A Facility that dispenses motor fuel for retail sales to the general public is required to have a Class C operator present when open for business. Emergency procedures and notification information must be readily available to the Class C operator. Most convenience store locations will fall into this category.
 - b. If a Facility has retail sales but not to the general public, such as club cards, or is considered non-retail, fleet vehicles for example, a Class C operator must be immediately available by phone and be able to be onsite within 2 hours. Emergency procedures and notification information must be posted within view of the facility user.

Some additional facts about the requirements you need to remember:

1. A single person can be trained and designated in multiple operator class categories.
2. A single person can be a designated operator at more than one facility (except for Class C operators assigned to a facility where retail sales to the general public occur).
3. Class A and B operators must be available for immediate phone consultation when a facility is in operation and be capable of being onsite within 24 hours.
4. A Department Certified Individual holding the IUM or UMX certification may be employed or contracted to serve as a facility's Class A and/or Class B operator.
5. A copy of the certificates of training for Class A and Class B operators shall be on file and readily available.
6. The owner of an underground storage tank facility shall prepare a list of designated operators. The list must represent the current Class A, Class B and Class C operators for the underground storage tank facility.