

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Storage Tanks
February 25, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE: RESCISSION OF PREVIOUSLY
ISSUED TECHNICAL BULLETIN
Release Detection Requirements
For New Suction System Piping

Effective immediately, this Notice rescinds in part the March 24, 2011, Notice titled “Release Detection Requirements For New Suction System Piping”.

In the March 24, 2011 Technical Bulletin, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) explained that all designs of suction piping must perform interstitial monitoring when installed after November 10, 2007

On December 22, 2018, amendments to 25 Pa. Code Chapter 245, Administration of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Program, became effective. One of these amendments specifies that release detection is not required for suction piping, regardless of installation date, that is designed and constructed to meet the following standards:

1. The below grade product piping operates at less than atmospheric pressure.
2. The below grade product piping is sloped so that the contents of the pipe will drain back into the storage tank if the suction is released.
3. No more than one check valve is included in each suction line.
4. Check valves are located directly below and as close as practical to or within the suction pump.
5. A method is provided that allows compliance with clauses (1)—(4) to be readily determined.

Suction systems that do not meet the above requirements, commonly known as American suction systems, shall continue to conduct release detection. American suction systems installed after November 10, 2007, are required to perform interstitial monitoring.

In order to prevent future generations of leaking underground storage tank systems, correct interpretation of the regulations is important. If you have questions or desire clarification of the above, please contact the Division of Storage Tanks at (717) 772-5599 and ask to speak with a member of the Underground Storage Tank Unit.