



OVERVIEW OF THE STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS

Environment and Climate Change
Canada's *Storage Tank Systems
for Petroleum Products and Allied
Petroleum Products Regulations*
establish requirements for storage
tank systems under federal
jurisdiction. This fact sheet
highlights some important
requirements that may apply
to your storage tank system.

Tank Tip 1

**on Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products
and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations**

Why were the regulations created?

These regulations help reduce the risk of leaks and spills of petroleum products from storage tank systems located on federal or Aboriginal lands ([see Tank Tip 2 – Do the Regulations Apply to You?](#)). They came into force in 2008 because of a clear need to make such systems safer. At the time, Environment and Climate Change Canada estimated that about 15% of these systems were more than 20 years old and had no leak detection, corrosion protection, or structures to contain spills.

Which storage tank systems are covered by the regulations?

([See Tank Tip 2 – Do the Regulations Apply to You?](#))

The regulations apply to owners and operators of storage tank systems located on federal or Aboriginal lands. This includes systems operated by band councils or owned by private companies or individuals. The regulations also apply to systems owned or operated by federal departments, boards or agencies. This includes systems owned or run by a federal work or undertaking: railways, port authorities and airports. Please see section 2 of the regulations to see if they apply to your own system.



Which stored products are covered by the regulations?

(See Tank Tip 2 – Do the Regulations Apply to You?)

The regulations apply to storage tank systems containing petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and home heating oil or allied petroleum products. Allied petroleum products are defined in Schedule 1 of the regulations and include products such as biodiesel, general purpose thinners for lacquers, and ethylene glycol. Tanks storing used oil are also captured by the regulations, regardless of the percentage of hydrocarbon (oil) in the mix.

Do the regulations apply to tank systems associated with heating appliances and emergency generators?

(See Tank Tip 2 – Do the Regulations Apply to You?)

Such storage tank systems are exempt from the regulations if:

- they have a total capacity of 2500 litres or less; and
- they are attached solely to a heating appliance or an emergency generator.

Do you have to identify your storage tank system?

(See Tank Tip 6 – Identifying Your System)

All storage tank systems subject to the regulations must be identified with Environment and Climate Change Canada. This can be done through our online storage tank registry at www.ec.gc.ca/rs-st. You can also fill out an identification form and return it to us. Once your tank system is registered, you will receive an Environment and Climate Change Canada identification number, which must be visible on or near the system. Product suppliers are not permitted to fill tanks unless they can see an Environment and Climate Change Canada identification number.

Do you need to update your system if it was installed before the regulations came into force?

If your system was already in place when the regulations came into force (June 12, 2008), it is considered an “existing” system. If it does not meet the requirements of the regulations, you may need to update it. For example, all storage tank systems with a capacity of 2500 litres or more must have a product transfer area designed to contain spills ([see Tank Tip 13 – Spill Containment at Product Transfer Area](#)). When changing or repairing an existing system, you must install components that meet all the standards identified in the regulations.

There are also leak monitoring requirements for the following kinds of tank storage systems:

- single-walled underground tanks and piping
- aboveground tanks and piping that lack secondary containment ([see Tank Tip 8 – Leak Detection and Monitoring](#))

Do some tanks or components have to be permanently withdrawn from service and removed?

(See Tank Tip 9 – Withdrawal and Removal of Storage Tank Systems)

Yes. The following installations pose a risk to the environment and must be permanently withdrawn from service and removed:

- single-walled underground tanks or piping without leak detection and cathodic protection (that is, protection against corrosion)
- aboveground tanks installed underground
- underground tanks installed aboveground
- partially buried tanks

Are there requirements if you find a leak?

(See Tank Tip 5 – What Do You Do If You Suspect or Find a Leak?)

Yes. If you find a leak in your tank system (or a component of the system), you must immediately withdraw the system or the component from service until the leak is repaired. In the case of a component, you may continue to operate the system only if that component can be isolated from the system. Single-walled underground tanks and piping pose a significant risk to the environment, and so there are specific requirements that apply when these installations leak:

- **Single-walled underground tanks:** If your single-walled underground tank leaks, it must immediately and permanently be withdrawn from service. You then have two years following the discovery of the leak to remove the system entirely.
- **Single-walled piping:** If your single-walled underground piping leaks, it must immediately and permanently be withdrawn from service and removed. If you want to bring the system back into operation, you must install approved piping.

Do you have to report a spill or leak?

(See Tank Tip 12 – Reporting a Spill)

Yes. If you have a spill or a leak, you must notify your provincial spill-notification centre as soon as possible. The telephone numbers are posted on our website and in Tank Tip 12 – Reporting a Spill.

Are there requirements for new storage tank systems?

(See Tank Tip 4 – New Storage Tank System Installation)

Yes. If you are considering installing a system, it is important that you read the regulations. There are requirements governing the design and installation of systems as well as applicable technical requirements. As with existing systems, all new systems must have a product transfer area designed to contain spills before the first transfer of fuel.

Do the regulations affect product delivery?

(See Tank Tip 11 – If You Deliver Products)

Yes. Your product supplier is not allowed to fill tanks that do not have an Environment and Climate Change Canada identification number visible

on the system. Also, delivery personnel must immediately inform the system's operator of any spills that happen while transferring the product to a tank, or if they see evidence of a leak or spill.

Are there any other key requirements?

Yes. You must have an emergency plan for your storage tank system. There are also records you must keep, including records of inspections and/or testing. Other requirements can be found in Tank Tips 2 to 13.



For more information, please visit our website at www.ec.gc.ca/rs-st. If the information you need is not available on our website, please contact your regional office or the Storage Tank Program:

Pacific & Yukon	ec.reservoirspyr-tankspyr.ec@canada.ca	604-664-9100
Prairie & Northern	ec.promconrpn-compropnr.ec@canada.ca	780-951-8600
Ontario	ec.enviroinfo.ontario.ec@canada.ca	416-739-4826
Quebec	ec.reservoirsqc-tankscqc.ec@canada.ca	514-283-5350
Atlantic	ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca	902-426-7231
Storage Tank Program	ec.registrereservoir-tankregistry.ec@canada.ca	1-844-672-8038

This material has been prepared for convenience of reference and accessibility and does not have an official character. It is of a general nature only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the regulations, users must consult the official version of the Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations and seek their own legal advice as appropriate.