



## TANK TIP 5

# HANDLING LEAKS

The **Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations** require that owners and operators of storage tank systems take immediate action if they discover or suspect a leak.

### TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL

You may have reasonable grounds to believe your storage tank system is leaking. For example, if your fuel inventory does not reconcile or you can smell fuel around your site, there might be a leak. In all such cases, you must **immediately take the system or the affected component out of service (subsection 3(1))** as well as:

- keep a record of the date the system or component was withdrawn
- maintain the cathodic protection if applicable **(subsection 43(a))**
- affix a label to the system's fill pipe stating that the system is temporarily out of service **(subsection 43(d))**; this will help avoid mistakenly filling a leaking system

If the leaking component can be isolated and kept isolated until it is repaired or replaced, you may continue to operate your system.

If circumstances make it **impossible to temporarily withdraw** the component or system from service, you must without delay **(subsection 3(4))**:

- **Minimize any immediate or long-term harm to the environment and human life or health**, until it becomes possible to comply fully. This means doing all you can to reduce the amount of product that reaches the environment. For example, if your leak is partway up a tank, you could reduce the volume of product so that the level sits below the leak
- **Notify** Environment and Climate Change Canada in writing, explaining the circumstances and the measures taken at **[ec.registrereservoir-tankregistry.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.registrereservoir-tankregistry.ec@canada.ca)** or by fax at **819-938-4454**

You must notify your provincial authority responsible for environmental emergency notifications of any release or the likelihood of a release of product to the environment. See **Tank Tip 8** for more information.



## TESTING AND INSPECTION

The component, which is leaking or suspected to be leaking, must undergo the **proper leak test or inspection** before resuming service:

### Underground tanks and piping

Someone trained in the procedure must do a precision leak test, using a documented and validated method.

### Aboveground vertical tanks

Someone trained in the procedure must immediately inspect the tank or floor of the tank.

### Aboveground horizontal tanks

You must do a thorough visual inspection of the tank walls, looking closely for signs of leakage.

### Aboveground piping

You must do a careful visual inspection of the walls of the piping, looking for signs of leakage.

### Turbine, transition, dispenser or pump sumps

Someone trained in the procedure must immediately test the sump, using a static liquid media leak detection test and validated method.

### Oil-water separator

You must measure the thickness of the oil and solids layers.

See **section 26** and **subsection 35(2)** of the Regulations for more details. Records of these tests and inspections must be kept. See **Tank Tip 11** for more information.

## RETURN TO SERVICE

The component or system can be returned to service if you make the **necessary repairs** to ensure it no longer leaks within the two years allowed for a temporary withdrawal.

However, if a **single-walled underground tank leaks**, the system must be:

permanently withdrawn from service immediately	 and 	removed within two years from the date the leak was detected
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If **single-walled underground piping leaks**, you must immediately permanently withdraw it from service and:

replace it with approved piping	 or 	permanently withdraw the system and remove it within two years from the date the leak was detected
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For more information, visit our website

**[www.canada.ca/petroleum-products-storage-tanks](http://www.canada.ca/petroleum-products-storage-tanks)**

If the information you need is not available on our website, contact your regional office or the Storage Tank Program:

<b>Pacific &amp; Yukon</b>	<a href="mailto:ec.reservoirspsy-tankspyr.ec@canada.ca">ec.reservoirspsy-tankspyr.ec@canada.ca</a>	<b>Quebec</b>	<a href="mailto:ec.reservoirsqc-tanksgqc.ec@canada.ca">ec.reservoirsqc-tanksgqc.ec@canada.ca</a>
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**Disclaimer:** 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.

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