

FARM STORAGE TANK REQUIREMENTS

This fact sheet presents an overview of the requirements for farm storage tanks established under the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act (Act 32 of 1989, as amended). The act establishes a comprehensive regulatory program for both underground (UST) and aboveground (AST) storage tanks and facilities that store regulated substances (liquid petroleum products and hazardous substances). The Storage Tank Program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The act defines a farm as land devoted to the production of crops, livestock, and livestock products for commercial purposes, including the production, processing, or retail marketing of crops, livestock, or livestock products. If 50 percent or less of such processed or merchandised products are produced by the farm operator, the storage tank located on the farm is not considered a farm tank.

All storage tanks should be periodically checked for structural integrity, deterioration, and releases for safety reasons and to protect the environment from pollution. By maintaining the tank system's integrity and promptly cleaning up any spills or overfills, the tank owner can reduce the chance of a costly cleanup.

DEP's Storage Tank Program is administered by the Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields, Division of Storage Tanks, P.O. Box 8762, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762, 800-42-TANKS (in PA only), 717-772-5599 or through the PA AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf); and by the Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program, Storage Tank Section, in each of DEP's six regional offices. (See regional office addresses and phone numbers at the end of the fact sheet.)

Farm tanks that are regulated by the Act include:

- ASTs and USTs in excess of 1,100 gallons that store motor fuels, such as gasoline, gasohol, diesel, and biodiesel;
- ASTs in excess of 1,100 gallons storing motor oil, lubricating oil, or hydraulic fluid;
- ASTs in excess of 250 gallons storing kerosene, not used solely for heating on the premises where stored;
- USTs in excess of 110 gallons containing motor fuels for resale; and
- ASTs in excess of 1,100 gallons and USTs in excess of 110 gallons storing substances that contain hazardous substances used for production of crops or livestock (these may include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and fertilizer solutions).

Tanks located on farms that are NOT regulated under the Act include:

- USTs storing heating oil used on the premises where stored;
- Propane tanks;
- ASTs 30,000 gallons or less in capacity storing heating oil used on the premises where stored;
- Pressure vessels operating at greater than 15 psi;
- Liquid manure tanks;
- Tanks not containing a regulated substance; and
- Nonstationary tanks used in a manner requiring that they receive, store, or dispense regulated substances at different locations within a 12-month period.

Requirements for tanks regulated under the Act include:

- Registration and payment of the annual registration fee;
- Participation in the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund administered by the Department of Insurance (USTs only);
- Use of a department-certified installer to install, modify, and close tanks;

- Meeting the technical requirements for tank construction and operation;
- Monitoring for releases using an appropriate leak detection method, such as automatic tank gauging and interstitial monitoring; and
- Reporting any confirmed release to the appropriate DEP regional office (this is also required under the Clean Streams Law for tanks not regulated under the act).

Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund

- Administered by the Department of Insurance, 717-787-0763.
- Available to owners of regulated USTs for cleanup of a release.
- Claim acceptance is based on fee payments being current and the tank being in compliance with technical and administrative requirements, including leak detection.

For more detailed information on the Storage Tank Program, contact DEP at 800-42-TANKS (in PA only) or 717-772-5599 or visit DEP’s website listed below. DEP has numerous fact sheets, publications, and guidance documents available on the various aspects of the Storage Tank Program.

For additional information on Pennsylvania’s Storage Tank Program or to obtain forms, contact:	
<p>Southeast Region 2 East Main St. Norristown, PA 19401-4915 484-250-5900 Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia</p>	<p>Northeast Region 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915 570-826-2511 Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming</p>
<p>Southcentral Region 909 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 717-705-4705 Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York</p>	<p>Northcentral Region 208 W. Third St., Ste. 101 Williamsport, PA 17701-6448 570-327-3636 Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union</p>
<p>Southwest Region 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 412-442-4000 Counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland</p>	<p>Northwest Region 230 Chestnut St. Meadville, PA 16335-3481 814-332-6648 Counties: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren</p>
<p>Central Office Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Division of Storage Tanks P.O. Box 8762 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762 717-772-5599 800-42-TANKS (in PA only)</p>	

For more information, visit www.dep.pa.gov, Businesses > Land > Storage Tanks.