

STORAGE TANK REGISTRATION

The storage tank registration program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields, Division of Storage Tanks, P.O. Box 8762, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762, 800-42-TANKS (in PA) or 717-772-5599, or through the PA AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (Telecommunications Devices for the Hearing Impaired).

The Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act (Act 32) was signed into law on July 6, 1989. In addition to many other provisions, this act authorized DEP to set up a registration program for both aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and underground storage tanks (USTs) storing regulated substances including: petroleum; hazardous chemicals; nonpetroleum oils including biodiesel, synthetic fuels and oils, tung oils, wood-derivative oils, and inedible seed oils from plants; and pure ethanol for blending with motor fuel. These tanks are referred to as regulated tanks.

How do tank owners register regulated tanks?

Owners of regulated aboveground and underground tanks must register each storage tank with DEP and pay an annual registration fee. Storage tank registration forms and instructions can be obtained from DEP's Division of Storage Tanks (Central Office), regional DEP offices, or from the DEP website at www.dep.pa.gov, Businesses > Land > Storage Tanks.

When an owner submits a completed registration form, DEP issues a temporary registration letter and an invoice for registration fees due. The owner is NOT to submit payment until they are invoiced. Upon receipt of the invoice stub and payment, DEP issues a registration certificate.

The certificate serves as proof of registration. The product distributor must see a current registration certificate or a temporary registration letter before placing product in the tank. The certificate should be placed in a protected area visible to the public at the facility where the tank is located.

It is unlawful to use, in any way, any regulated storage tank that has not been registered and permitted. Failure to pay the registration fee may result in enforcement actions, up to and including criminal penalties.

The annual registration fee schedules for regulated tanks are as follows:

ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS (ASTs)

<u>Gallons/Capacity</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
251 - 5,000	\$ 50.00
5,001 - 50,000	\$125.00
50,001 and over	\$300.00

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs)

<u>Gallons/Capacity</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
111 and over	\$50.00

Which USTs must be registered?

Regulated USTs are defined as tanks used to contain regulated substances with a capacity of more than 110 gallons, where 10 percent or more of the volume (including the volume contained in the underground piping) is below the surface of the ground.

Each compartment of an underground multi-compartment (split) tank should be registered as a separate tank.

The following tanks are exempt and NOT regulated USTs under the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act:

- Farm or residential tanks with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that store motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;
- Tanks that store heating oil used on the premises where stored;
- Tanks that store unregulated substances;
- Flow-through process tanks;
- Tanks situated in an underground area (such as a basement, cellar, mine working, drift, shaft, or tunnel) if the tank is situated upon or above the supporting surface of the floor and can be visibly inspected – these tanks are classified as aboveground storage tanks and could be regulated;

- Tanks regulated under the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980; and
- Sump tanks that are used as temporary storage for emergency spill or overflow containment and are immediately emptied after use.

Which ASTs must be registered?

Regulated ASTs are defined as stationary tanks used to contain regulated substances with a capacity of more than 250 gallons, where more than 90 percent of the volume is upon or above the supporting surface of the ground and can be visibly inspected. This includes tanks that can be visibly inspected in an underground area or in a building.

Each compartment of an aboveground multi-compartment (split) tank should be registered as a separate tank.

The following tanks are exempt and NOT regulated ASTs under the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act:

- Tanks with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that store motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;
- Tanks with a capacity of 30,000 gallons or less that store heating oil used on the premises where stored;
- Tanks located on a farm with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that store or contain substances that facilitate the production of crops, livestock, and livestock products on such farm;
- Pipeline facilities (including gathering lines) regulated under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, or that are intrastate pipeline facilities regulated under comparable state laws;
- Flow-through process tanks, including, but not limited to, process vessels or oil and water separators;
- Tanks regulated under the Oil and Gas Act of 1984;
- Tanks regulated under the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act of 1945;
- Tanks used for the storage of products that are regulated by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;
- Tanks regulated under the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980;
- Tanks that store unregulated substances;
- Tanks regulated under the Boiler Regulation Law (pressure vessels) operated at greater than 15 psig;
- Nonstationary tanks that are designed and constructed to be moved. In addition, the use of the tanks must require them to be periodically moved to different service locations at least once in any 12-month period; and
- Tanks with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that store new motor oil including lubricating and operational fluids for mechanical components associated with the engine, including hydraulic, transmission, gear, and braking systems.

What happens if a tank is not registered?

Owners who fail to register their tanks are in violation of Act 32 and must immediately register the tanks. To properly close an unregistered tank, it must first be registered and the owner must employ a DEP-certified tank installer who is qualified to conduct the necessary tank closure activities.

What financial assistance is available for damages from a leaking underground tank?

The Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund became effective on February 1, 1994, under Act 32 to help owners take corrective actions. The fund is administered by an independent board of the Department of Insurance (phone: 717-787-0763).

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