

CERTIFICATION OF STORAGE TANK INSTALLERS AND INSPECTORS

Why must a tank installer and inspector be certified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)?

The Pennsylvania Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act (Act 32 of 1989) and DEP regulations established a certification program for installers and inspectors of aboveground and underground storage tanks. The regulations prohibit anyone who is not a DEP-certified storage tank installer and/or inspector from conducting tank handling or inspection activities. These requirements were established to ensure minimum levels of knowledge, experience, and performance are met by individuals who install, modify, remove, and inspect regulated storage tank systems and facilities.

How does a tank installer and inspector become certified by DEP?

To become certified, a person must first submit an accurate and complete application. Applications are available electronically from the DEP website, in all DEP regional offices (see addresses at the end of the fact sheet) or by contacting the storage tank program's central office at 800-42-TANKS (PA) or 717-772-5599, or through the PA AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf). Information explaining the requirements accompanies each application. Completed applications are submitted to central office for review. Upon approval, a letter is issued informing the individual that he or she is eligible to take the Storage Tank Installer and Inspector Certification Examination. The applicant will be required to pass the administrative module and at least one technical module before being granted certification. DEP will issue certification documents to the applicant after receiving the passing test results from the testing contractor. No one will be permitted to perform tank handling or formal inspection activities without certification, unless directly supervised by someone on site who holds certification.

What are the categories for certification?

There are 15 categories for certification: 12 for installer and three for inspector. This is designed to allow an applicant to tailor certification to his or her areas of expertise including the installation, modification, removal, and inspection of underground and aboveground storage tanks. Fact Sheet 1647, "Understanding the Certification Categories," identifies and explains the different certification categories and provides a section that answers frequently asked questions.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. A new application requesting certification is submitted to DEP.
2. The applicant's qualifications are evaluated on the basis of experience, education, and training.
3. An applicant schedules and sits for the installer and inspector Certification Examination.
4. Upon passing the Administrative Module and at least one Technical Module, certification is approved by DEP.
5. When certification is desired in *additional categories*, a new installer and inspector certification application is submitted.

Failure to pass the Administrative Module and at least one Technical Module requires that the applicant retest for failed examinations within 18 months of the original authorization date. Failure to pass within the 18-month period immediately following authorization requires the applicant to submit a new application for certification.

Will certification need to be renewed?

Yes. Initial certification is valid for three years from the date of issuance unless DEP suspends, revokes, or otherwise invalidates the certification prior to the expiration date. To renew a certification, the certified tank handler or inspector must submit a renewal application to DEP 60 days prior to the expiration date.

To renew certification, tank handlers must attend DEP-provided Administrative Training within the 24-month period prior to the submittal of the renewal application and must choose between one of the following options for renewal of each certification category:

1. Take and pass the technical examination module(s) for the category(ies) that are about to expire;

OR

2. Submit verification that an approved training course has been successfully completed for each category in which certification renewal is requested.

INSPECTORS: Those individuals applying to renew inspector certification must attend DEP-provided training each renewal cycle. Additionally, aboveground tank inspectors are required to maintain API-653 or STI inspector certification applicable to the certification held.

Information on both renewal and amendment requirements is included in the original certification application package. Application packets are available in all DEP regional offices and central office or they may be downloaded from DEP's website at www.dep.pa.gov, Businesses > Land > Storage Tanks.

Can a certified installer or inspector work for a company that is not certified?

No. It is unlawful for any certified installer or inspector to conduct tank handling or inspection activities as an employee of a non-certified company. See Fact Sheet 1573, "Storage Tank Company Certification," to learn more about company certification.

Under what circumstances would an individual amend their certification?

Whenever there is a change in the information provided in the application for the certification, it is necessary to submit an Installer and Inspector Amendment Form. An individual address change, a new employer or any change in correspondence information should be reported within 14 days in order to avoid delays in receiving important documents from DEP.

<i>For additional information, contact the Division of Storage Tanks or your regional DEP office:</i>		
Northwest Region 230 Chestnut St. Meadville, PA 16335-3481 814-332-6648	Northcentral Region 208 W. Third St., Suite 101 Williamsport, PA 17701-6448 570-327-3636	Northeast Region 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915 570-826-2511
Southwest Region 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 412-442-4000	Southcentral Region 909 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 717-705-4705	Southeast Region 2 East Main St. Norristown, PA 19401-4915 484-250-5900
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)		
For additional information on DEP regional offices, or to determine which regional office is responsible for the county in which a facility is located, please visit www.dep.pa.gov and search "Regional Resources."		

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