



Fact Sheet

Storage Tank
Program

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

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". 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. A farm tank is used for activities which include the production, processing or retail marketing of crops, livestock or livestock products. If less than 50 percent of such processed or merchandised products are produced by the farm operator, the storage tank 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 and promptly cleaning up any spills or overfills, the tank owner can reduce the chance of a costly cleanup.

The Department of Environmental Protection's storage tank program is administered by the Bureau of Watershed Conservation, 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 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 which are regulated by the Act include:

- ASTs and USTs in excess of 1,100 gallons which store motor fuels such as gasoline, gasohol and diesel.
- ASTs in excess of 1,100 gallons storing motor oil, lubricating oil or hydraulic fluid.
- USTs in excess of 110 gallons containing motor fuels used in combination with other business activities such as fueling school buses, commercial trucking and excavating.
- ASTs in excess of 1,100 gallons and USTs in excess of 110 gallons storing substances used for production of crops and livestock which contain hazardous substances. These may include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and fertilizer solutions.

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

- Tanks storing heating oil used on the premises where stored.
- Propane tanks.
- Pressure vessels operating at greater than 15 psig.
- Liquid manure tanks.
- Tanks not containing a regulated substance.
- Non-stationary tanks that 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.
- Annual payment to 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 inventory control, automatic tank gauging and interstitial monitoring.
- Reporting any confirmed release to the appropriate DEP regional office. (This also applies to 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 annual fee payments being current and the tank being in compliance with technical and administrative requirements including leak detection



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For more detailed information on the Storage Tank Program contact DEP at 1-800-42-TANKS (in PA only) or (717) 772-5599. The Department has numerous fact sheets, publications and guidance documents available on the various aspects of the Storage Tank Program. A request form is attached for your convenience.

For additional information on Pennsylvania's storage tank program or to obtain forms, contact:	
Southeast Region Lee Park, Suite 6010 555 North Lane Conshohocken, PA 19428 610-832-5949 Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia	Northeast Region 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790 570-826-5475 Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming
Southcentral Region 909 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110 717-705-4705 Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York	Northcentral Region 208 West Third Street, Ste. 101 Williamsport, PA 17701 570-321-6525 Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder Sullivan, Tioga and Union
Southwest Region 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 412-442-4000 Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland	Northwest Region 230 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335-3481 814-332-6648 Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren
Central Office Bureau of Watershed Conservation Division of Storage Tanks PO Box 8762 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762 717-772-5599 800-42-TANKS (in PA only)	

This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.pa.state.us or visit DEP website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (choose Information by Subject/Storage Tanks).