Owners and operators of regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) on tribal lands must comply with the federal UST regulation.

This compliance assistance brochure highlights tips to help you manage your underground storage tanks.

Note: This document is a resource to promote compliance and does not replace the federal UST regulation.

This brochure is one in a series of EPA compliance assistance brochures designed to help owners and operators in Indian country comply with the federal UST regulation.

Other brochures focus on implementation, compatibility, spill buckets, overfill protection, recordkeeping and notification, financial responsibility, insurance, and piping release detection.

https://www.epa.gov/ust/best-management-practices-usts-indian-country

Office of Underground Storage Tanks
www.epa.gov/ust
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RELEASE DETECTION
Underground storage tank (UST) release detection is an electronic or manual method or combination of methods designed to help you quickly detect releases from your tank.

What type of storage tank release detection must you use?
You must conduct one of the following:
- automatic tank gauging
- continuous in-tank leak detection
- statistical inventory reconciliation (SIR)
- interstitial monitoring
- groundwater monitoring
- vapor monitoring
- manual tank gauging (for tanks 2,000 gallons or less)
- tank tightness test and inventory control (can only be used for 10 years after tank installation)
- or another method approved by the implementing agency

For USTs installed or replaced after April 11, 2016, you must use secondary containment with interstitial monitoring.

What should you do to ensure your release detection method is working properly? If you use:

**Automatic Tank Gauging (ATG)**
- Check your printout and make sure:
  * the ATG probe is working
  * there is enough down time between fuel delivery and testing
  * the product level is appropriate for testing

**Interstitial Monitoring**
- Inspect your system
  * Look for liquid at the lowest point of the UST containment and record the results
  * If the sensor alarms, contact your service provider to find the source of the alarm and replace malfunctioning electronic sensors

**Vapor or groundwater monitoring**
- Check your well and well cover
  * Make sure it is installed so that leaks cannot enter into the monitoring well
  * Make sure the well caps are secure
  * Make sure the well caps are not damaged

**Inventory control**
- Use the right equipment:
  * Make sure the gauge stick is not warped; its ends are not worn, broken, or shortened; and markings are clearly legible
  * Record readings daily and reconciled them monthly

**Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR)**
- Collect the right information
  * Record the data according to your vendor’s instruction
  * Have a trained professional analyze your data

**How do you avoid common UST release detection problems?**

**ATG**
- Perform a monthly leak test
- Make sure ATG is properly functioning and programmed
- Respond to ATG alarms
- Make sure probes are functioning and connected
- Install printer paper
- Have enough product in tank for tests
- Allow enough time for tests

**Interstitial Monitoring**
- Make sure sensor is present, properly installed, and functioning

**SIR**
- Investigate inconclusive results
- Obtain timely vendor reports

**Inventory Control**
- Gauge the tank daily, check for water monthly, and record all deliveries
- Reconcile data at the end of each month
- Conduct an annual tightness test

**Tightness Testing**
- Have enough product in the tank to perform the leak test

**Recordkeeping**
- Maintain printed copies of electronic monthly leak detection records
- Maintain written logs of manual monthly interstitial monitoring checks
- Keep inventory records
- Keep records of the 30 day visual equipment inspection, and annual walkthrough inspections
- Keep records of annual release detection equipment tests

For more information on UST release detection, see EPA’s *Release Detection Methods For Underground Storage Tanks And Piping: Straight Talk On Tanks:* or order free copies by calling (800) 490-9198.