



UST System Compatibility with Biofuels in Indian Country

EMERGENCIES



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This document provides compliance tips for owners and operators of underground storage tanks regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (i.e., USTs in Indian country). It does not replace the federal UST regulation. Compatibility requirements for all regulated substances under the federal UST regulations, including biofuels, are described in the Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR §280.32.

WHAT DOES UST SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY MEAN?

Compatibility means that the materials and equipment in the UST system continue to perform as they were intended to perform when storing regulated substances. The federal UST regulation requires all owners and operators ensure their UST system is compatible with whatever regulated substance they store in it. If a regulated substance is incompatible with your UST system, it could cause components in your UST system to become harder or softer, become brittle, or swell or shrink. Any changes to materials in your UST system caused by incompatibility could lead to a release of regulated substances to the environment.

Almost all gasoline and much of the diesel fuel available today contains ethanol or biodiesel, respectively. These biofuels and other emerging fuels may not always be compatible with all UST systems, especially when blended in higher amounts. UST owners and operators have three additional requirements if they wish to store any regulated substances containing **more than 10% ethanol** or **more than 20% biodiesel**, such as **E15, E85, or B30**.

WHAT ARE THE THREE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IF I WANT TO STORE FUELS WITH MORE THAN 10% ETHANOL OR MORE THAN 20% BIODIESEL?

- 1. Notify EPA you intend to, or have begun, storing more than 10% ethanol or more than 20% biodiesel.**
 - At least 30 days before switching to store one of these in an existing UST system.
 - Within 30 days after installing and bringing a new UST system into use, identifying on the required notification form what regulated substance is being stored.
 - The notification form and EPA addresses to mail in the form are available online at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/notification-forms-underground-storage-tanks>.
 - In either situation, EPA may then contact you to verify the compatibility status.
- 2. Demonstrate the UST system (including each of the parts of the UST system listed in the blue box in the next section) is compatible with the substance stored, through one of these options:**
 - Certification or listing of the components listed in the box below by a nationally recognized independent testing lab for use with the substance stored (UL is the most common); or
 - A written statement of approval for use with the substance stored from the manufacturer of the equipment or components. The statement must include the entire range of ethanol or biodiesel blends for which the component is compatible.
- 3. Keep records demonstrating compatibility of the UST with the substance stored:**
 - Owners must keep these records of compatibility as long as the UST system stores a regulated substance containing greater than 10% ethanol or greater than 20% biodiesel.



Underground Storage Tank Owners and Operators Compliance Assistance Fact Sheet

FOR WHAT COMPONENTS OF THE UST SYSTEM MUST I DEMONSTRATE COMPATIBILITY?

These parts of the UST system must be demonstrated as compatible if storing regulated substances containing more than 10% ethanol or more than 20% biodiesel:

- Tanks.
- Piping.
- Containment sumps.
- Pumping equipment.
- Release detection equipment.
- Spill equipment.
- Overfill equipment.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT COMPONENT COMPATIBILITY?

Industry organizations and manufacturers of USTs or UST system component may have more information about compatibility. Some commonly used websites are included in the table below.

Resource	Website
Flex Check (by American Coalition for Ethanol)	https://flexfuelforward.com/toolkit/flexcheck/
PEI UST Component Compatibility Library (by PEI)	https://pei.org/resources/ust-component-compatibility-library/
UL Product iQ (by UL Solutions)	https://productiq.ulprospector.com/en

WHAT IF MY UST SYSTEM IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THESE HIGHER BLENDS?

If you find that a component of your UST system is not compatible with the blend of regulated substance with more than 10% ethanol or more than 20% biodiesel you wish to store, or you cannot demonstrate compatibility of a component, you may not store that regulated substance. In this situation, you have three choices:

- Use targeted retrofits to upgrade the components with components compatible with the substance.
- Install an entirely new UST system using components compatible with the substance.
- Choose to store a different product.

Additional information and resources about biofuels and other emerging fuels can be found on EPA's Emerging Fuels and Underground Storage Tanks webpage, located at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/emerging-fuels-and-underground-storage-tanks>.

You may also find EPA contacts for your regional offices located here: <https://www.epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tank-ust-regional-contacts>.