

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Pollution Control Program

UST Technical Bulletin
Leak Detection Methods
#4 of 8

AUTOMATIC TANK GAUGING

What is it?

An automatic tank gauge (ATG) is a device installed into a port on the tank. It automatically reads product level, providing automated inventory during operations and leak detection during periods when the tank is not in use.

Requirements:

1. The device must be able to detect a minimum 0.2 gallon per hour leak.
2. The device must perform inventory control or equivalent test.
3. Keep a record of each month's readings.

Advantages: Provides automated inventory and leak detection. Can be applied to the piping. Tank test and inventory data can be electronically transmitted to (alternative, other, remote, central) location. Removes "human error" from the (method, equation).

Disadvantages: Some devices might require period of nonuse of tank, generally about 6 hours. High initial capital cost for equipment. Probe can be fouled by certain materials such as waste oil.

After December 22, 1990, vendors or manufacturers of these tests must be able to demonstrate through third-party certification that the method is capable of detecting the leak rate specified with a statistical probability of at least 95% with no more than a 5% probability of a false alarm. Ask for documentation.