

UST Leak Detection Must Be Done Monthly

Occasionally, a tank owner/operator will send twelve months of stick readings to his SIR vendor all at once . . . Or will fail to get ATG printouts each month. Then, when the time comes to renew his/her PSTIF coverage, the owner/operator is scrambling to “catch up.”

We understand you have many “chores” demanding your time and attention. But by law, we can only insure you if you are complying with DNR’s UST rules . . . And those rules require you to check for leaks monthly.

So put it on the calendar – once a month – be sure your USTs aren’t losing fuel!

Future Rule Changes

Heads up! Missouri’s two tanks regulatory agencies and the PSTIF are all contemplating rule changes that may affect you:

Changes to DNR air pollution rule for five-county St. Louis area – Current draft requires removal of Stage II equipment by December 31, 2015; removes references to MO/PETP; allows non-CARB-approved equipment in certain instances; prohibits ASTs >1,000 gallons at gasoline dispensing facilities; changes construction and operating permit requirements. Expected publication date for the proposal: April 1, with comment period to follow. See www.pstif.org/apps/proposed_dnr_rule_changes_ver3.pdf.

Changes to DNR UST rules (applicable statewide) – May require new USTs installed after 7/1/17 to be double-walled; same for piping if 50% or more is replaced or repaired after that date; modify UST installation requirements; prohibit “re-repair” of spill buckets that were previously repaired; add or update references to industry standards. Also, if EPA publishes new UST rules in 2014, may add requirements to test more equipment and require owners/operators to periodically inspect UST equipment. Expected publication date for DNR proposal: 6-12 months after EPA’s rules are published, (i.e., in late 2014 or early 2015.)

Speaking of ATGs . . .

PSTIF has learned that some automatic tank gauges rely on a battery to “back up” their data . . . So if there is a power outage, you don’t lose all your historical records, like the tank charts and other setup data, alarm history, inventory records, etc.

The only problem is . . . batteries lose their charge and/or wear out. One of our insured owners recently had a leak, but when he tried to review recent records for that UST, he could not, because there had been a power outage the previous day and his battery was dead.

If you have this type of equipment, be sure to ask your equipment technician to check the battery life so you don’t lose all that information you’re paying to obtain and store!

UST Operator Training rule – Likely will be published in 2014 with compliance deadline in 2016.

Changes to Department of Agriculture’s petroleum rules – May prohibit owners from using USTs aboveground by some future date; regulate motor oil quality; regulate liquefied and compressed natural gas; impose industry standards on new marinas. Expected publication date for the proposals: some time in 2014.

Changes to PSTIF claims rule – May shorten the deadline for submitting invoices; specify certain requirements for cost estimates; add language explicitly authorizing reimbursement for risk assessments. Expected publication date for proposals: mid-2014.



E15 Allowed?

Missouri's Department of Agriculture has already published a proposed amendment to its rules that would, for the first time, allow a blend of fuel that includes 15% ethanol to be sold at retail.

See www.pstif.org/apps/proposed_e15_rule.pdf for the proposed rule. It was disapproved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, so the entire Missouri Legislature must decide whether to disapprove the rule or let it go into effect. We expect that decision to be made by early February.

Biofuels Info

EPA has updated its online information on equipment compatibility issues related to biofuels. See www.epa.gov/OUST/altfuels/biofuelsguidance.htm and click on "Biofuels Compatibility Resources."

Missourians Continue to Lead

Kudos to: Sonny Underwood, president of Mid-South Steel Products in Cape Girardeau, who was elected and is currently serving as president of the Steel Tank Institute/Steel Plate Fabricators Association; and Phil Farrell, president of Double Check Company in Kansas City, who was elected and is currently serving as president of the Petroleum Equipment Institute.



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