
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Monthly Inspection Guidelines for Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tanks

Owners of regulated aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) are required by Administrative Rules Part Env-306.07 to inspect their AST facilities not less than monthly. The records showing the results of the monthly inspection must be maintained for at least three years. The purpose of the inspection is to identify conditions at an AST facility that could result in a release from a tank, piping or fitting to the environment, if not corrected in a timely manner.

Who must inspect their tanks?

Owners of regulated AST facilities must inspect all their tanks at least monthly. Regulated AST facilities include:

- Those facilities having a single aboveground storage tank system with an oil storage capacity of more than 660 gallons, and
- Those facilities with two or more aboveground storage tank systems, to include 55-gallon drums, having a combined oil storage capacity of more than 1,320 gallons intended for storage, transfer, or distribution of oil as defined in RSA 146-A:2,III.

Regardless of other oil storage, ASTs which store heating oil (to include used engine, transmission, gear, or hydraulic oil) used solely for heating an on-premise structure are exempt from the requirements of Env-Or 300 if they have a combined storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or less.

What must be inspected?

Pursuant to Env-Or 306.07(a & b), a monthly inspection shall include:

- Deficiencies such as leaks, surface wetting, discoloration, blistering or evidence of corrosion, cracks, chime distortion or other structural damage;
- Cracks, areas of wear, visible shell thinning, evidence of poor maintenance and operating practices, excessive settlement of structures, separation or swelling of tank or piping insulation, malfunctioning equipment, and structural and foundation weaknesses;
- For insulated tanks and insulated piping, all exterior surfaces of insulation. For other than insulated tanks and insulated piping, all exterior surfaces of tank and piping;
- All secondary containment, pipes, valves and other associated equipment;
- All exterior surfaces of tank and piping supports; and

- All visible system components of each high level alarm and each leak detection system which is in place at the facility.

How should the inspection be performed?

The monthly inspection is generally intended to be visual in nature. Each AST facility and system is different in terms of tank size, style, contents and sophistication. Facility owners may use the inspection form created by their engineer for their Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan provided that is inclusive of the requirements of Env-Or 306.02 or create their own. The important element is that the facility be inspected at least monthly and the results of the monthly inspection are documented, signed and retained for three years.

What if an inspection identifies a deficiency?

If it appears that a failure that could result in a release is eminent, the owner shall immediately implement measures to prevent the release per Env-Or 306.10. If a lesser deficiency is identified during an inspection, NHDES expects the owner to correct it as soon as practical but no later than 30 days. There is no need to notify NHDES of a deficiency unless a release of petroleum has been discovered or is suspected. The release shall be reported to NHDES in accordance with Env-Or 600. The action taken to correct the deficiency should be noted on the inspection form.

How will this inspection requirement be enforced?

Owners of AST systems are required by Env-Or 306.07 to keep records of the monthly inspection for a period of not less than three years. Maintaining a file of completed, signed and dated monthly check-off lists will meet the intent of this rule. DES will review the content of monthly inspection files during facility visits and compliance inspections.

Facility owners should be aware that compliance with Env-Or 300 is a requirement for access to state funds otherwise available to reimburse the owner of expenses associated with the cost of cleaning up an oil spill should one occur. Maintaining documented evidence of routine inspections is necessary to remain in compliance.

Who do I contact for more information?

For more information concerning AST facilities or the New Hampshire Oil Spill Cleanup Reimbursement Funds, please contact the Oil Remediation and Compliance Bureau at (603) 271-3899, or visit the NHDES website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/index.htm>.



DISCLAIMER: Information contained in this Fact Sheet is current as of February 7, 2014. Statutory or regulatory changes that may occur after that date may cause part or all of the information to become invalid. If there are any questions concerning the current status of this information, please contact us at (603) 271-3899.