
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Requirements for Inspections of Aboveground Storage Tanks

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) provides the following outline related to the inspection requirements for regulated aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) as detailed in Env-Or 306.06 through Env-Or 306.09.

Monthly Exterior Inspection Log or Record to include:

1. The date of the inspection.
2. The name, position and signature of the individual conducting the inspection.
3. The tank registration number of the specific AST system.
4. Log of previous inspections maintained for at least 3 years.
5. The inspection shall include inspecting:
 - a. For insulated tanks and insulated piping, all exterior surfaces of insulation.
 - b. For other than insulated tanks and insulated piping, all exterior surfaces of tanks, secondary containment, pipes, valves and other associated equipment.
 - c. All exterior surfaces of tank and piping supports.
 - d. All visible system components of each high-level alarm and each leak detection system which is in place at the facility.
6. The inspection shall note any unusual operating conditions, such as:
 - a. Deficiencies such as leaks, surface wetting, discoloration, blistering, or evidence of corrosion, cracks, chime distortion, or other structural damage.
 - b. 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.
7. The inspection shall accurately describe any conditions noted in (6) above so that the description of the condition can serve as a point of reference for future inspections; and a recommendation that it be monitored or that the component be repaired, replaced, or taken out of service.

Interior Inspection Schedule (for tanks $\geq 5,100$ gallons):

1. 10 years old – initial inspection for tanks where any part of the shell is in contact with the ground.
2. 20 years old – initial inspection for tanks where the tank shell is entirely off the ground, such as tanks on racks or in cradles.
3. Following the initial inspection, an inspection shall be performed at least:
 - a. Every 5 years for tank systems containing gasoline.
 - b. Every 10 years of the in-service life of the tank for tank systems containing other motor fuels, heating oils and fuel oils.

Interior Inspection Requirements to include (for tanks \geq 5,100 gallons):

1. The date of the inspection.
2. The name, position and signature by a certified AST inspector shall include their API or STI certification number or professional engineer stamp.
3. The tank registration number of the specific AST system.
4. Within 60 days of the date of the inspection, the owner shall submit to the department a copy of the inspection results and the certification page signed by the certified AST inspector and including the inspector's API or STI certification number or professional engineer stamp.
5. Detailed interior tank inspections shall consist of:
 - a. Cleaning the tank such that all visible evidence of liquids, sludges, by-products, solids and the like are removed, and the interior surface of the tank is completely visible.
 - b. Removing, transporting and disposing of sludge in a manner consistent with all applicable state and federal requirements.
 - c. Entering the tank to determine its suitability for continued service in accordance with API 653 or STI SP001, as applicable; and
 - d. Performing a tightness test in accordance with NFPA 30 or manufacturer's specifications on any portion of the piping system that is underground.
6. The certified AST inspector shall document each interior inspection by whether any conditions that adversely affect the tank's suitability for continued service as specified in API 653 or STI SP001 were observed.

Insulated Tanks and Insulated Piping Schedule:

1. An initial inspection shall be performed on or before February 7, 2017, or within 10 years of installation, whichever is later.
2. Following the initial inspection, an inspection shall be performed at least once every 10 calendar years.
3. An inspection complying with (1), above, performed prior to February 7, 2014, shall qualify as the initial inspection required provided that the owner maintains a 10-year inspection frequency.

Insulated Tanks and Insulated Piping Inspections to include:

1. The date of the inspection.
2. The name, position and signature by a certified AST inspector shall include their API or STI certification number or professional engineer stamp.
3. The tank registration number of the specific AST system.
4. Within 60 days of the date of the inspection, the owner shall submit to the department a copy of the inspection results and the certification page signed by the certified AST inspector and including the inspector's API or STI certification number or professional engineer stamp.
5. The certified AST inspector shall:
 - a. Inspect through inspection ports, if available, or remove insulation to the extent necessary to determine the condition of the exterior wall of the tank or piping.
 - b. Determine suitability for continued service in accordance with STI SP001, API 2610, or API 2611, as applicable.
6. The certified AST inspector shall document each inspection by recording whether any conditions that adversely affect the tank or pipe's suitability for continued service as specified in STI SP001, API 2610 or API 2611, as applicable, were observed and, if so, the specific location on the AST or pipe, as applicable, the conditions existed.