

Federal Underground Storage Tank Operator Training Requirements In Indian Country July 2016

What Are The Federal Operator Training Requirements?

In the 2015 underground storage tank (UST) regulation, EPA established minimum training requirements for designated Class A, Class B, and Class C operators. A single individual may be designated as more than one class of operator, as long as that individual is trained in all responsibilities for each class of operator designated. A training program must teach as well as verify knowledge. Each designated operator must be trained or pass a comparable standalone examination of the requirements. All operators must be trained by October 13, 2018. After this date, new Class A and Class B operators must be trained within 30 days of assuming duties. Class C operators must be trained before assuming duties.

Designated operators must demonstrate knowledge of their responsibilities, based upon their operator class as shown below:

Class A operators

- Spill and overfill prevention
- Release detection
- Corrosion protection
- Emergency response
- Product and equipment compatibility and demonstration
- Financial responsibility
- Notification and storage tank registration
- Temporary and permanent closure
- Related reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and inspections
- Environmental and regulatory consequences of releases
- Training requirements for Class B and Class C operators

Class B operators

- Operation and maintenance
- Spill and overfill prevention
- Release detection and related reporting
- Corrosion protection
- Emergency response
- Product and equipment compatibility and demonstration
- Reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and inspections
- Environmental and regulatory consequences of releases
- Training requirements for Class C operators

Class C operators

Know how to take appropriate actions (including notifying appropriate authorities) in response to emergencies or alarms caused by spills or releases resulting from the operation of the UST system.

What are the general responsibilities?

Class A operators have primary responsibility to operate and maintain the UST system and typically manage resources and personnel.

Class B operators have daily responsibility for on-site operation and maintenance of UST systems.

Class C operators are daily on-site employees who are generally the first line of response to events indicating emergency conditions.

What Assistance Will EPA Provide Operators In Indian Country?

EPA is aware that accessing operator training examinations might prove challenging for operators located within Indian country. Therefore, EPA will be providing a no cost, online examination that will be available to any operator. After successfully passing the examination, the operator can print out a certificate of completion. For those who do not have internet access, EPA will provide a CD that contains the examination and once passed will produce a printable certificate.

When Will The EPA Operator Training Examination Be Available?

EPA recently started developing the online examination and expects it and the CD will be available summer 2017.

Where Do I Get More Information?

More information about EPA's operator training requirement is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/operator-training-minimum-training-requirements-and-training-options>.