

Fact Sheet: Installation of Underground Storage Tanks



The basics:

- The installation or replacement of underground storage tanks (USTs) and associated product piping is regulated by the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Underground Storage Tank Program. Keep in mind that USTs may also be regulated by the city, town, or fire department where installation will occur
- USTs that are < 1,100 gallons containing heating fuel used for on-site use are not regulated at the State level and may be installed without DEM involvement
- Any UST containing gasoline, diesel, kerosene, or any other hazardous substance, as well as USTs containing heating fuel for distribution, are regulated by DEM and require a regulatory review and written approval prior to the start of any installation or replacement related work

What can be installed?

- All tanks and product piping must be of double or triple-wall construction. Single-wall USTs and product pipelines can no longer be installed in the State of Rhode Island
- All steel components must be cathodically protected or electrically isolated from the soil and groundwater. Fiberglass or plastic components do not require corrosion protection
- All USTs and product pipelines must meet the Underwriter's Laboratories Standards for USTs and, if applicable, National Association of Corrosion Engineers Standards. Please see Rule 9.05 of the UST Regulations for a complete list of the applicable standards
- All materials must be compatible with the substance being stored
- For additional requirements, review section 9 of the UST Regulations

What about Piping?

- Product Piping is considered part of the UST system and the same regulations and requirements apply

Who can design and install UST Systems?

- All plans and designs for UST and/or product pipeline installation and replacement must be reviewed, approved, and stamped by a registered Professional Engineer (PE)
- Specific licensing requirements for installers may vary by city or town, however, at a minimum, installers should:
 - ⇒ Be a Registered Contractor with the RI Secretary of State
 - ⇒ Have a valid Gas Station LTD Limited License from the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training
- Anyone performing electrical work must have a valid Electricians License from the Dept of Labor & Training
- Anyone installing, retrofitting, or replacing a fire suppression system must have a Fire Suppression contractor license from the Dept of Labor & Training
- License applications and additional information can be found at the Dept of Labor & Training website located here: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/profregs/>. Note: the Gas Station LTD license is listed under "Mechanical"
- To register as a contractor with the Secretary of State, follow the directions located on their website: <http://www.crb.ri.gov/contractorregistration/index.php>
- Always check with the City or Town and local fire department to see if there are any additional local requirements or licenses required
- If you have additional questions regarding licensing, please contact Nick Ranone at the RI Dept of Labor & Training at (401) 462-8535

What about UST Replacement?

- If a UST is being replaced or upgraded, the existing UST must be permanently closed and removed from the ground prior to installation of new USTs. The closure process for USTs is regulated by DEM and requires prior approval and in many cases oversight from DEM inspectors and environmental consultants. For questions about removing existing USTs, contact Frank Vogel at (401) 222-2797 extension 7522
- If just the product piping is being replaced, you do not need to go through the permanent closure process, however, an environmental consultant is required to be present and screen the soils during all replacement of product piping
- Replacement of USTs or product pipelines is regulated the same as installation of new USTs and DEM must review and approve all plans prior to any construction