



Tightness Testing Licensing 2020—2021

UST Program

As UST systems age and routine interstitial testing is required, and as additional tightness testing requirements for sumps, under-dispenser containment (UDC) and spill containment basins (SCB) go into effect, the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) tightness testing program must evolve to keep up with these changing requirements and ensure that all testing is performed by competent, properly trained, and insured vendors. Beginning in the 2020-2021 licensing period, RI DEM is implementing the following changes to the tightness tester licensing program:

- RI DEM considers testing of sumps, under-dispenser containment, spill containment basins, as well as UST and product piping interstitial space to be tightness tests, and you must be a licensed tester to perform these tests;
- Testers may be licensed in multiple methods, however, can only perform the tests that they are licensed in;
- Due to unique system configurations, weather conditions, and other policies and regulations, the RI DEM requirements for some methods may be different than the manufacturer or method developer, and as a result **you are required to follow the RI DEM Methods unless specified otherwise**; All methods are available on our website;
- Applicants are required to obtain a certificate from the method developer which demonstrates adequate training in the test method for which they are applying. For methods where there is an insufficient training program, or RI DEM requirements are substantially different, applicants must take the RI DEM certification exam, available on our website, as part of the licensing process. This currently includes UST and product piping interstitial tightness tests, as well as all sump, UDC and spill containment basin tightness tests. The exams are available on our website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/ust>
- The Dri-Sump method is being allowed on a 1 year trial basis; applicants who wish to become licensed must submit documentation from Accent that they have been trained, as well as demonstrate that they understand the RI DEM limitations placed on the method by completing the RI DEM certification exam;
- The licensing requirements for primary wall tightness testing of USTs and product piping remain unchanged, however, please remember to submit documentation that you have been trained by the method developer and that your equipment has been calibrated;
- You are now able to report test failures via our website. Visit our website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/ust> and look for the link that says "Report a Test Failure"; This method is quicker and more accurate than calling to notify us, and you will receive an email receipt showing that you reported the failure. We encourage all testers to begin reporting test failures this way

Please Remember:

- All renewal applications, licensing fees, and all supporting materials are due by August 31st, 2020. If your application is not received by this date your license will lapse and you will not be able to perform testing, and may be subject to a late fee;
- Any modification to install or activate equipment for low-level testing requires prior approval from RI DEM;
- Routine testing of the primary wall of double-walled tanks and product piping is allowed, however not required unless the system has failed an interstitial test. Testing of the primary wall is not a substitute for testing of the interstitial space, and interstitial testing is always required once a UST or product piping has reached 20 years of age and every 2 year thereafter;
- All licensees are required to follow the requirements of Section 1.16 of the *Rules and Regulations for Underground Storage facilities used for hazardous materials and regulated substances* (250-RICR-140-25-1). Failure to comply with any Rule of 1.16

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management
Underground Storage Tank Program

Questions?

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