



Putting Our Stamp on the U.S. Northeast

New UST Operator Training and Certification Regulations

On February 3, 2012, The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated new regulations which require the Owners/Operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) to designate a Massachusetts-certified Class A, B and C operator for each UST system they own or operate. The new regulations also establish the standards by which a person can become a Massachusetts-certified Class A, B or C UST operator. The goal in developing the regulations is to ensure that those people responsible for operating and maintaining UST systems have the necessary knowledge and understanding of how their systems work. The regulations are located in 310 CMR 80 and go into effect August 8, 2012.

UST System Owner/Operator Requirements

- By August 8th, designate at least one Class A, B or C operator for each UST system. (An individual Class A, B, or C operator may be designated for more than one UST system.);
- Document that each Class A or B operator is appropriately trained on the UST system they are designated for; and
- Document that each Class C Operator has received appropriate training from a Class A or B Operator.

Class A Operator Requirements

- Class A Operators must have general knowledge and understanding of UST systems and state regulations including but not limited to tanks and piping, material stored in USTs, and leak detection and spill prevention methods;
- Class A Operators must ensure that the appropriate people:
 - properly operate and maintain the UST system,
 - are trained,
 - maintain required records, and
 - respond to emergencies.
- A Class A operator must be certified within 30 days of being designated to a UST system.
- To become certified as a Class A operator, a person must obtain training on the type of UST system for which they are designated and take and pass a 3-hour operator examination.

Class B Operator Requirements

- Class B operators must have in-depth knowledge and understanding of operation and maintenance of UST systems and state regulations.
- Class B operators must ensure implementation of the day-to-day UST system operation and maintenance and recordkeeping.
- Class B operators must have specific knowledge of UST system components, component materials, and release detection and prevention methods used.

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- A Class B operator must be certified within 30 days of being designated to a UST system.
- To become certified as a Class B operator, a person must obtain training on the type of UST system for which they are designated and take and pass a 3-hour operator examination.

Class C Operator Requirements

- Class C operators must have specific knowledge of the UST systems' layout and emergency procedures, and how to respond to alarms.
- Class C operators must immediately and properly respond to alarms, and immediately notify a Class A or B operator and the appropriate emergency responders.
- A Class C operator must be certified before being designated to a UST system.
- To become certified as a Class C operator, a person must be trained by a Class A or B operator. (There is no exam requirement for Class C Operator certification.)
- Training must be site-specific and include the actions to take in response to alarms or other indications of emergencies caused by leaks or releases from a UST system.

Certification Exams

- UST Operator certification exams are available online through MassDEP at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/ust/operexam.htm>
- The exam fee is \$75
- Exams must be completed in one sitting, within the allotted time
- Exams are "open book"
- Individuals can choose to take exams to qualify as a Class A, B, or A/B operator.
 - A Class A/B operator must meet all of the requirements for both Class A and Class B operators; however, there is just one 4-hour exam for A/B operator certification.
- MassDEP will issue a certificate to those that pass the certification exam.
- If an individual is a certified UST Operator in another state, he/she has the option of taking either one of the Class A, B, or A/B exams or a Massachusetts Reciprocity Exam.

CEI can discuss with you in further detail how the regulations will affect you.

For more information or to see how little it might cost to get compliance assistance, contact:

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