

EPA’s Office of Underground Storage Tanks developed this document to describe the significant differences between the 1988 federal underground storage tank (UST) regulations and EPA’s proposed changes, as well as provide additional information about the changes. See EPA’s website (www.epa.gov/oust/fedlaws/proposedregs.html) for the proposed federal UST regulations and additional information to help UST stakeholders understand the proposed changes.

This document provides information about EPA’s proposal to change the 1988 federal UST regulations. It is not a substitute for the information in 40 CFR parts 280 and 281 or EPA’s notice of proposed rulemaking published in the *Federal Register*.

Area	Current Requirement And Citation	Proposed Requirement, Implementation, ¹ And Preamble Location	Additional Information About The Proposed Change
Operator Training	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owners and operators designate at least one individual for each of three classes of operators. Designated operators must be trained on minimum defined areas and may need to be retrained if the UST system is not in compliance. ▪ Owners and operators retain a list of designated operators trained at each facility and proof of training or retraining. ▪ EPA adds definitions for Class A operator, Class B operator, Class C operator, and training program. <p>Implementation: phased in over three years based on tank installation date</p> <p>[Section IV.A.1]</p>	<p>The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) required operator training in states that receive money from EPA. This proposed change will ensure that all operators across the country, including those in Indian country and in states without operator training requirements, are trained to prevent releases.</p>

¹ Implementation is the time frame the regulated community has to meet the requirement after the effective date of the final UST regulation.

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Secondary Containment	<p>Secondary containment and interstitial monitoring for hazardous substance tanks only</p> <p>[§ 280.42]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owners and operators install secondary containment and interstitial monitoring for all (including petroleum) new and replaced tanks and piping (except safe suction piping and piping associated with field-constructed tanks and airport hydrant systems). Owners and operators must replace the entire piping run when 50 percent or more of piping, excluding connectors, is removed and other piping is installed. ▪ Owners and operators install under-dispenser containment for all new dispenser systems. ▪ EPA adds definitions for dispenser system, replaced, secondary containment, and under-dispenser containment. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.A.2]</p>	<p>EPAAct required states to implement additional measures to protect groundwater as a condition of receiving money from EPA.² EPA proposes to implement secondary containment and under-dispenser containment (UDC) to meet this provision. This proposed change will ensure secondary containment and UDC are required for all new and replaced UST systems across the country, including those in Indian country and in states without additional measures to protect groundwater requirements.</p>
Operation And Maintenance (O&M)	<p>Triennial cathodic protection testing; periodic internal lining inspections; annual line leak detector (LLD) testing; and release detection equipment operation and maintenance according to manufacturer's instructions</p> <p>[§ 280.31, § 280.21(b)(1)(ii), § 280.44(a), and 280.40(a)(2)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walkthrough inspections - owners and operators conduct monthly walkthrough inspections which look at: spill prevention equipment; sumps and dispenser cabinets; monitoring/observation wells; cathodic protection equipment; and release detection equipment <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.B.1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spill prevention equipment - owners and operators test annually for liquid tightness or use a double-walled spill bucket with continuous interstitial monitoring. <p>Implementation: within one year</p> <p>[Section IV.B.2]</p>	<p>The 1988 UST regulations required equipment be in place to reduce and prevent releases to the environment. These proposed changes will ensure owners and operators maintain their equipment to ensure it is working properly and preventing releases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkthrough inspections ensure owners are looking regularly at their equipment to catch problems early and prevent releases. • Spill prevention equipment is required under the 1988 UST regulations, but testing is not required. Spill prevention

² EPAAct allows states the option of meeting the additional measures to protect groundwater requirement by either secondary containment and under-dispenser containment or evidence of financial responsibility and installer certification.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="675 174 1391 407"> <p>▪ Overfill prevention equipment - owners and operators test every three years to ensure equipment is set to activate at the appropriate level in the tank and will activate when regulated substances reach that height. Implementation: phased in over three years based on tank installation date</p> <p>[Section IV.B.3]</p> <li data-bbox="675 436 1391 669"> <p>▪ Secondary containment areas - owners and operators test every three years to ensure the interstitial area has integrity or use specific continuous monitoring methods. Implementation: phased in over three years based on tank installation date</p> <p>[Section IV.B.4]</p> <li data-bbox="675 698 1391 931"> <p>▪ Release detection equipment (including LLDs) - owners and operators test annually to ensure equipment is operating properly. Implementation: within one year</p> <p>[Section IV.B.5]</p> 	<p>equipment will eventually fail; testing will ensure the integrity of the spill bucket because it will catch small spills when the delivery hose is disconnected from the fill pipe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1431 334 1908 611"> <p>• Overfill equipment is required under the 1988 UST regulations, but does not have to be tested regularly. Overfill testing will ensure overfill equipment will activate properly and notify the delivery person that the tank is nearly full.</p> <li data-bbox="1431 611 1908 713"> <p>• Testing interstitial areas will ensure leaks will be caught before reaching the environment.</p> <li data-bbox="1431 713 1908 960"> <p>• Release detection equipment is required under the 1988 UST regulations, but does not have to be tested regularly. Testing release detection equipment will ensure the equipment is operating properly and will detect a release quickly.</p>
Deferrals	<p>UST systems storing fuel for use by emergency power generators deferred from release detection</p> <p>[§ 280.10(d)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="675 1019 1391 1121"> <p>▪ EPA removes deferral and requires owners and operators to perform release detection. Implementation: within one year</p> <p>[Section IV.C.1]</p> 	<p>The 1988 UST regulations deferred emergency generator tanks because technology was not available to monitor remote sites. The technology is now available to monitor and detect releases. These systems have releases similar to other regulated UST systems and need to have release detection monitoring.</p>

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	<p>Field-constructed tanks (FCT), airport hydrant systems (AHS) and wastewater treatment tank systems deferred from subparts B, C, D, E, G, and H</p> <p>[§ 280.10(c)(1), (4), and (5)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA removes deferral and regulates FCT, AHS, and wastewater treatment tank systems. Owners and operators may use alternative release detection options for FCT and AHS systems. EPA continues to defer aboveground tanks associated with FCT and AHS. ▪ EPA defines airport hydrant fuel distribution system. <p>Implementation: three years for subparts B (except notification), C, and D (except periodic bulk piping pressure testing which has a phase in over seven years) and immediate for subparts E, G, H, and notification</p> <p>[Sections IV.C.2, 3, and 4]</p>	<p>The 1988 UST regulations deferred wastewater treatment tanks because of uncertainty of the universe and the appropriateness of some release detection methods for these systems. EPA believes there are no active systems to which this regulatory requirement will apply. However, if any of these systems do exist, release detection and prevention technologies are available for these systems to prevent and quickly detect releases to the environment.</p> <p>The 1988 UST regulations deferred AHSs and FCTs because sufficient information and technology was not readily available for these unique systems. Technology is now available to monitor and detect releases at alternative leak rates and frequencies. These proposed changes will prevent and quickly detect releases from these systems.</p>
<p>Flow Restrictors In Vent Lines</p>	<p>USTs may use flow restrictors in vent lines (also called ball float valves) to meet the overfill prevention equipment requirement.</p> <p>[§ 280.20(c)(ii)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA eliminates flow restrictors in vent lines as an option for owners and operators to meet the overfill prevention equipment requirement for newly installed UST systems and when flow restrictors in vent lines are replaced. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.D.1]</p>	<p>This technology has several inherent weaknesses and can result in tanks being over pressurized. This proposed change no longer allows flow restrictors in vent lines for new and replaced systems. Owners and operators must use one of the other overfill prevention methods listed in 40 CFR part 280.</p>

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Internal Lining	<p>USTs using internal lining as the sole method of corrosion protection can add another internal lining, cathodic protection, or both if the internal lining fails the periodic inspection and cannot be repaired in accordance with a code of practice.</p> <p>[§ 280.21(b)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owners and operators permanently close tanks using internal lining as the sole method of corrosion protection, if the internal lining fails the periodic inspection and cannot be repaired according to a code of practice. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.D.2]</p>	<p>The 1988 UST regulations allowed lining as an upgrade option to extend the life of some tanks. While linings extended the life of many tanks, this is not a permanent solution. As the tank linings fail, these older tanks must be taken out of service to prevent releases to the environment.</p>
Notification	<p>Notify the state or local agency within 30 days of bringing an UST system into use.</p> <p>[§ 280.22]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owners and operators notify the implementing agency rather than the state or local agency. ▪ Owners and operators notify the implementing agency within 30 days of UST system ownership change. ▪ Within 30 days of the effective date of the final UST regulation, owners and operators submit a one-time notification for previously deferred UST systems EPA regulates. ▪ EPA updates the notification form to reflect changes in the proposed regulations. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.D.3]</p>	<p>This change provides implementing agencies with important information about regulated UST systems. Currently owners are required to notify state and local agencies from an outdated list in the 1988 UST regulation. In addition, owners are not required to notify EPA about USTs under our jurisdiction. This change will help implementing agencies carry out the program effectively.</p>

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Compatibility	<p>Owners and operators must use UST systems made of or lined with materials that are compatible with the substance stored in the UST system. Two codes of practice are referenced in a note.</p> <p>[§ 280.32]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Owners and operators demonstrate compatibility for UST systems storing greater than 10 percent ethanol or greater than 20 percent biodiesel, or any other regulated substance the implementing agency identifies, by one of these methods: listing by a nationally recognized independent testing laboratory; equipment or component manufacturer approval; or another method the implementing agency determines to be no less protective of human health and the environment than the other methods. ▪ Owners and operators maintain compatibility records for the life of the equipment or component for all new or replaced equipment and for UST systems storing greater than 10 percent ethanol or greater than 20 percent biodiesel. ▪ EPA removes references to two codes of practice. ▪ EPA revises definitions of motor fuel and regulated substance. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.D.4]</p>	<p>The 1988 UST regulations require UST systems to be compatible with the material stored in them. This proposed change does not alter that, but rather helps owners demonstrate compatibility with their system. As newer fuels enter the market place, it is even more important for owners and operators to clearly understand how to demonstrate compatibility with these fuels and ensure there are no releases to the environment due to stored fuels being incompatible with UST systems.</p>
Repairs	<p>Definition of repair links a repair to a release; testing following a repair applies only to the tank, piping, and cathodic protection system.</p> <p>[§ 280.12 and § 280.33]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA revises definition to remove the link that a repair must be associated with a release and adds examples of other UST system components that can be repaired. ▪ Owners and operators test within 30 days after a repair to spill or overfill equipment and secondary containment areas. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.D.5]</p>	<p>This proposed change provides clarity that fixing parts of the UST system not linked to a release are also repairs, therefore testing following these activities is necessary.</p>

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Vapor And Groundwater Monitoring	<p>Vapor and groundwater monitoring allowed as monthly methods of release detection.</p> <p>[§ 280.43(e) and (f)]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA phases out vapor and groundwater monitoring as release detection options for owners and operators. <p>Implementation: within five years</p> <p>[Section IV.D.6]</p>	<p>These release detection methods are external to the tank, which means a release can significantly affect the environment before it is detected. Owners and operators must use one of the other more protective release detection options listed in 40 CFR part 280.</p>
Interstitial Monitoring Results	<p>Reporting suspected releases and system testing associated with release investigation and confirmation.</p> <p>[§ 280.50 and § 280.52]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA adds interstitial monitoring alarms as an example of an unusual operating condition under release reporting. ▪ EPA adds interstitial integrity testing for secondarily contained tanks and piping using interstitial monitoring for the system test under release investigation and confirmation. ▪ EPA adds closure as an option if a system test confirms a leak. <p>Implementation: immediately</p> <p>[Section IV.D.7]</p>	<p>As interstitial monitoring becomes used more widely, it is important to ensure the regulations are clear on all aspects of its use. This proposed change provides clarity about reporting, response, and testing for interstitial alarms. It also clarifies that closure is allowed if a leak is confirmed.</p>
Newer Technologies	<p>Includes technologies from 1988 and before.</p> <p>[§ 280.20 and § 280.43]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA adds newer technologies: clad and jacketed tanks, noncorrodible piping, continuous in-tank leak detection, and statistical inventory reconciliation. <p>[Section IV E.1]</p>	<p>This proposed change updates the 1988 UST regulations to include current technologies.</p>
Codes Of Practice	<p>Includes codes of practice from 1988 and before.</p> <p>[throughout 40 CFR part 280]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA adds newer codes of practices, updates titles of codes of practices, and removes codes of practice that are not applicable or no longer exist. <p>[Section IV E.2]</p>	<p>This proposed change updates the 1988 UST regulations to include current codes of practice.</p>

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Upgrade Requirements	<p>Includes options and requirements for upgrading UST systems with spill, overflow, corrosion protection, release detection, and financial responsibility.</p> <p>[§ 280.21, § 280.40, § 280.41, § 280.42, and § 280.91]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA removes references to 1993 through 1998 upgrades and phase in schedules associated with the original upgrade deadlines. <p>[Section IV E.3]</p>	<p>The upgrade deadlines passed more than ten years ago and no longer need to be included as part of the requirements. This proposed change removes references to this outdated information.</p>
Editorial And Technical Corrections	<p>Not applicable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA corrects spelling, numbering, and other editorial errors. EPA adds guidance and interpretations we developed and implemented since 1988. <p>[Section IV E.4]</p>	<p>This proposed change corrects previous errors in the 1988 UST regulations.</p>
State Program Approval Requirements	<p>Includes criteria for states choosing to obtain state program approval (SPA).</p> <p>[40 CFR part 281]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA updates SPA requirements to address proposed changes to 40 CFR part 280 and implement delivery prohibition, operator training, and additional measures to protect groundwater requirements contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. ▪ Implementation: States with program approval have 3 years to submit a revised SPA package. <p>[Section V]</p>	<p>This proposed change ensures states will also update their programs with the increased environmental protections. It provides consistency between federal and state UST regulations.</p>