

New Training Requirements for UST Operators

The 2005 Energy Policy Act requires that all Underground Storage Tank (UST) operators receive mandatory training regarding the operation and maintenance of UST systems by August 8, 2012. Concessioners with gas station or marina fueling operations will need to ensure that staff who operate USTs are provided with training.

Each state is required to develop its own UST operator training program. If a state is not authorized to manage USTs, the EPA will administer the program. Many states have already developed their own requirements and some states already require that UST operators be trained, while others have set a deadline that is earlier than the federal 2012 deadline. Check with your state to determine your deadline for training. (Information on states with training programs can be found at <http://www.ustraining.com/ustresources.html>.)

The EPA designated three separate UST operator classes. Each class will receive training specific to the tasks they conduct.

- Class A: Staff primarily responsible for operating and maintaining the entire UST system(s)
- Class B: Staff responsible for implementing day-to-day aspects of operating, maintaining, and recordkeeping at UST system(s)
- Class C: Staff responsible for notifying Class B and C operators of alarms or other indications of emergencies caused by spills or releases from UST system(s)

A Class A, B, and C operator must be designated for each UST. Individuals who perform the work of more than one operator class must be trained in each class to which they are assigned. For more information about the requirements for each operator class, visit: EPA Grant Guidelines to States for Implementing the Operator Training Provision, at http://www.epa.gov/oust/fedlaws/otgg_final080807.pdf.