

**DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE  
CONTAMINATED SITES PROGRAM**

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<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm>

March 5, 2004

Re: **UST Owner/Operator Training for 2004 Third Party Inspection Program**

Dear Tank Owner/Operator:

It's time to start thinking about the upcoming inspection of your underground storage tank (UST) system. Since 1999, owners and operators of UST systems in Alaska have been required to have their tanks inspected every three years by a licensed third party inspector in accordance with 18 AAC 78.017. Please check your tags to see if they expire in 2004. Even if your tags do not expire this year, you are still required to perform annual operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements for your UST system. Tanks temporarily out-of-service (TOS) are also required to be inspected.

**Free Training.** The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will provide free training to UST owners and operators on March 24, 2004, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The training location will be dependent upon the number of owners who respond to the enclosed survey. Once the training location has been determined, it will be posted on the Contaminated Sites Storage Tank web page at this link: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/csp/training.htm#oo>

The purpose of the training is to help you prepare for your upcoming inspection. ***Please return the enclosed questionnaire if you are interested in this training, or send an email to [Linda Nuechterlein@dec.state.ak.us](mailto:Linda_Nuechterlein@dec.state.ak.us).*** Please bring information about your leak detection system to the training, and complete the enclosed Compliance Checklist.

The following information has been included to help you prepare for your inspection and/or annual O&M of your UST system.

- ❑ **Deadlines.** If an existing tank tag expires October 31, 2004, your inspection must be completed between April 30 and August 31, 2004. You have another 30 days to file the paperwork (September 30, 2004), and no later than October 31, 2004 to post an operating "tag" from the State of Alaska. A tank without a "tag" after that date is not allowed to receive fuel. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has posted a list of facilities with tanks that require inspection during 2004 on-line at <http://info.dec.state.ak.us/SPAR/CSP/UST/2004.asp>.
- ❑ **List of Licensed Inspectors.** A current list of state-approved inspectors can be found at our web page at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/csp/inspector.htm>. If you do not have web access, please contact me for a list.

- ❑ **How To Prepare:** Complete the DEC "Voluntary Self Inspection Checklist" found in the UST Operation and Maintenance Manual for Owners and Operator's at this link:  
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/csp/o&m.htm>
  
- ❑ **Common problems.** The following is a list of common problems that have been noted during the inspection process:
  - 1) Incomplete leak detection records. (Please note that the last 12 months of leak detection records must be available at the time of inspection.)
  - 2) Spill buckets dirty. (They must be kept clean.)
  - 3) Corrosion testing not done every three years.
  - 4) Line leak detectors missing or not tested annually.
  - 5) Annual maintenance of electronic leak detection (LD) equipment. (Records of last annual maintenance of LD equipment are required.)

It is imperative that you keep all required UST records for corrosion testing and leak detection. If required records are not available during the inspection, further follow-up will be required and may delay the issuance of your tank "tags."

We have also learned that most tank systems have had at least one problem discovered during inspection that required fixing. The sooner you inspect, the more time you have to correct any problems. Those who wait until the end of the inspection season may have difficulty finding an available inspector and having repairs completed timely. For additional information about the third party inspection program, please visit us online at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/csp/third.htm>

If you have questions, please contact Dave Allen at (907) 269-7537 or me at (907) 269-7530.

Sincerely

Linda Nuechterlein  
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures: Training Survey  
Compliance Checklist