



SPCC – As Written by the TCEQ:

RECENT FEDERAL SPCC CHANGES EASE REGULATORY BURDEN

The EPA recently adopted changes to the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) rule that significantly reduced the number of facilities regulated by the rule. The SPCC rule applies to owners and/or operators of facilities that store, use, transfer, distribute or consume oil and oil-related products. (Like diesel & gasoline). These changes took effect in August 2002.

In order to prevent oil spills from reaching our nation's waters, the EPA requires that certain facilities develop and implement oil spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plans.

Some of the changes to the rule include the following:

- Completely buried tanks subject to the requirements of the EPA's Underground Storage Tank rules are now exempt;
- Containers that hold less than 55 gallons are exempt;

EPA regional administrators may require preparation of an SPCC plan for otherwise exempt facilities on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on changes to the SPCC rule, go to the Web site www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc.htm or contact the EPA region 6 office at 214/665-6444.

Good Housekeeping

How important is it to practice good housekeeping? Well, good housekeeping is part of many stormwater permits and pollution prevention guidelines set by the TCEQ. It also shows inspectors that you run a good facility. How can you improve housekeeping?

- Promptly clean up spills
- Maintain equipment
- Keep waste containers covered
- Keep refuse picked up
- Clean old oil stains from the pavement

Spill and Release Reporting

Had a spill or release? Don't delay report it immediately. Who to call? For assistance with emergency petroleum or hazardous substance spills, call the

**Texas Environmental
Emergency Hotline:
1-800-832-8224**

AND

**National Response Center:
1-800-424-8802**

AND

**Tank Owners
Mutual Insurance Co:
1-800-336-1338**

Be prepared to give them your name and telephone number. Also they will ask questions like:

- Date and time of the spill or release
- What substance has been released (gasoline, diesel, oil)
- The approximate quantity of the spill or release
- The exact location of the spill or release
- Any water bodies involved
- Name/Number of the party in charge of the facility

DO NOT delay in reporting a spill or release. Not reporting promptly can lead to costly environmental clean-ups, fines, and violations. Failure to report can lead to Claim Denials also!

What is Cathodic Protection?

Cathodic protection (CP) is really a very old scientific method of preserving metal. Sir Humphrey Davy experimented with copper in an attempt to protect Naval ships from rapid decay. Davy succeeded in protecting copper against corrosion from seawater by the use of iron anodes. Cathodic protection is now a widely used method for preventing the corrosion deterioration of metallic underground storage tanks from the electric ions found in soil. There are two main methods:

- Using sacrificial anodes – attaching anodes that have a lower corrosion potential than the tank.
- Using an impressed current provided by an external source

These methods work by reducing the corrosion rate of the UST by reducing it's potential to corrode, bringing the metal closer to an immune state!

Please Note: You must have your system checked by a NACE specialist every 3 years. There are no exceptions!

Is the TCEQ Really Out There Inspecting Gasoline Retailers?

Inspection data from the TCEQ website shows the number of retail gasoline station inspections is increasing!

2001 Inspections	Formal Actions for Petroleum Storage Tanks – 552 Administrative Orders – 198 Fines Assessed – \$1,219,050.00
2002 Inspections	Formal Actions for Petroleum Storage Tanks – 128 Administrative Orders – 233 Fines Assessed – \$1,568,082.00

Deficiencies were found in the following areas:

- Certification for Underground Storage Tanks
- Release Detection for Underground Storage Tanks
- Release Detection Requirements, Spill and Overfill
- Financial Assurance for Underground Storage Tanks

Who's Who at TOMIC?

TOMIC is a mutual insurance company owned by over 1000 policyholders throughout Texas and New Mexico. That is you! We are governed by a Board of Directors and by an Advisory Council. For a full listing please see our website. Tankowners is managed by a professional staff of insurance specialists, and we are here to help you! DeeDee G. is our insurance and underwriting specialist. Carol T. is underwriting, accounting and the billing specialist. Please give us a call or email us if you require any assistance.

General Information:

dgrundmann@tankowners.com

Customer Support:

service@tankowners.com

How to Request a New Certificate of Insurance

- Call us at 817-336-1336 and request a certificate. Have your Policy Number & Facility ID ready.
- After hours? or Anytime!
Fax us at 817-339-3138.

Important Phone Numbers

TOMIC Member Service Team
(817) 336-1336 or (800) 336-1338
www.tankowners.com (website)
service@tankowners.com (email)

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TCEQ-PST Registration Team
(512) 239-2160

TCEQ-UST & Stage II Technical Specialists
(512) 239-0300

TCEQ-Help Line
(512) 239-2038
www.tceq.state.ts.us

EPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks
(703) 603-7171

TANK OWNERS

MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

1600 W. Seventh Street • Fort Worth, Texas 76102