



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **Underground Storage Tank Regulations Chapter 173-360A WAC Adopted Rule**

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*Overview of Changes to Repealed Rule*

July 18, 2018

**Purpose of this document:**

On July 18, 2018, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) repealed existing Chapter 173-360 WAC and adopted new Chapter 173-360A WAC, Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations. The new chapter modifies and replaces the repealed chapter. This document provides a summary of the changes to the repealed chapter. Changes highlighted grey were made to be consistent with federal rule requirements in 40 C.F.R. Part 280 or to comply with state program approval (SPA) requirements in 40 C.F.R. Part 281. More information about the federal requirements is available at <https://www.epa.gov/ust/revising-underground-storage-tank-regulations-revisions-existing-requirements-and-new>. The changes are also footnoted in the rule text, which is available separately on our rulemaking webpage identified below.

**For more information about the adopted rule:**

Visit Ecology's Underground Storage Tank Rulemaking webpage at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules/Rulemaking/WAC-173-360-Mar16>.

**Contact information:**

Kristopher Grinnell  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
360-407-7382  
[UStRule@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:UStRule@ecy.wa.gov)

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**Part 1 – Scope and definitions**

Purpose of chapter

- Incorporated changes to statement of purpose in RCW 90.76.005 and 90.76.020 to include requirement that state program be consistent with and no less stringent than requirements in the Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act of 2005.

Exempt UST systems

- Clarified that heating oil exemption is limited to UST systems used solely for heating structures on the property where the system is located. The exemption does not apply to UST systems used for other purposes, such as for powering generators. Also incorporated into the provision the existing definitions of “consumptive use” and “on the premises where stored.” This exemption was the only use of the terms in the rule.
- Eliminated requirement that UST systems storing in excess 1,100 gallons of heating oil are subject to release reporting requirements of the UST rule. Releases from such systems must be reported under the MTCA cleanup regulations (WAC 173-340-300(2)).
- To be consistent with §280.10(b)(5) of the federal rule, changed description of de minimis concentration exemption and eliminated definition of term “de minimis concentration” that confused “concentration” with “amount.”
- Consistent with changes to the definition of “underground storage tank” in §280.12 of the federal rule, updated description of pipeline facility exemption.

Partially exempt UST systems

- Consistent with §280.10(c)(4) of the federal rule, updated description of partial exemption for emergency power generator UST systems at nuclear power generation facilities.
- Consistent with §280.10(c)(2) of the federal rule, eliminated partial exemption for airport hydrant fuel distribution systems and UST systems with field-constructed tanks, except for aboveground storage tanks associated with such systems. These systems are defined and referred to in the rule as “previously deferred UST systems.”
- To be consistent with §280.10(c) of the federal rule, eliminated the applicability of the following requirements to partially exempt UST systems:
  - Notifying buyers.
  - Notice of changes in regulated substances.
  - Notice of changes in release detection methods.
  - Notice of temporary closure and return to service.
  - Permanent closure and change-in-service, except notice of such.
  - Site assessment upon closure.
- Consistent with §280.11 of the federal rule, exempted aboveground storage tanks associated with previously deferred UST systems from performance standards in WAC 173-360A-0340.
- Consistent with §280.10(c) and §280.90(d) of the federal rule, added financial responsibility as an applicable requirement for aboveground storage tanks associated with previously deferred UST systems. Unlike the federal rule, added financial responsibility as an applicable

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requirements for all other partially exempt UST systems (unless owner or operator is state or federal government entity).

- Added requirement that installation records must be maintained until the partially exempt UST system is permanently closed or undergoes a change-in-service.

Compliance dates for previously deferred UST systems

- Established compliance dates for previously deferred UST systems in accord with §280.251(a) of the federal rule, except as follows:
  - Specified compliance date for Part 2 (administration and enforcement) as effective date of rule. The federal rule specifies within 3 years of effective date. All previously deferred UST systems are already required to be licensed under state rule.
  - Specified compliance date for Part 9 (service providers) as effective date of rule. The federal rule does not include service provider requirements.
  - Specified compliance date for Part 10 (financial responsibility) as effective date of rule. The federal rule specifies within 3 years of effective date. All previously deferred UST systems are already licensed and have demonstrated financial responsibility.

Delegation of state program to local governments

- Eliminated Ecology's authority to delegate state program responsibilities to local governments, consistent with the change in statutory authority (RCW 90.76.030 repealed in 1998).

Approval of more stringent local requirements

- For assessing overall sensitivity of environment, added depth to groundwater and proximity to surface water to the non-exclusive list of factors.
- Consistent with changes to RCW 90.76.040 in authorizing statute, eliminated provision that allowed Ecology-approved local ordinances or resolutions apply to "existing UST systems" if the local jurisdiction applied within five years of the adoption of the original state rule. The deadline passed without any applications.

Definitions

- Moved definitions of terms used only in Part 10 (financial responsibility) to Part 10, consistent with the federal rule structure.
- Added definitions of the following terms:
  - "Airport hydrant fuel distribution system" (used federal rule definition)
  - "Cathodic protection tester" (used federal rule definition)
  - "Code of practice" (to avoid repetition)
  - "Containment sump" (used federal rule definition)
  - "Environment" (used cleanup rule definition)
  - "Include" (to avoid repetition)
  - "Previously deferred UST systems (to avoid repetition)
  - "UST system component"

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- Replaced the following terms:
  - “Certified UST supervisor” replaced by “service provider”
  - “Corrective action” (undefined) replaced by “remedial action”
  - “Supervisor” replaced by “service provider”
  - “Tank permit” replaced by “license” and “facility compliance tag”
  - “Tank services” replaced by “UST system services”
  - “UST site” replaced by “UST facility”
- Extracted definitions of “petroleum” and “hazardous substance” from definitions of “regulated substance” and “hazardous substance UST system”
- Deleted definitions of terms no longer used in the rule, including:
  - “Aboveground release” (used only in cleanup rule)
  - “Belowground release” (used only in cleanup rule)
  - “Beneath the surface of the ground” (definition incorporated where term used)
  - “CERCLA”
  - “Closure”
  - “Consumptive use” (definition incorporated where term used)
  - “Deferral”
  - “Delegated agency”
  - “De minimis concentration”
  - “Director” (definition incorporated where term used)
  - “Emergency power generator”
  - “Emergency power generator tank”
  - “False alarm” (definition incorporated where term used)
  - “Firm”
  - “Heating oil”
  - “Immiscible”
  - “On the premises where stored” (definition incorporated where term used)
  - “Overfill release”
  - “Party”
  - “Retrofitting”
  - “Structural defect”
  - “Testing”
  - “Underground area” (definition incorporated where term used)
  - “Underground release”
- Clarified or changed definitions of the following terms:
  - “Ancillary equipment” (to clarify includes other UST system components consistent with EPA’s interpretation of federal rule)
  - “Class C operator” (to make consistent with federal rule – not require be employee)
  - “Compatible” (to make consistent with federal rule)
  - “Decommission” (to clarify not include temporary closure activities)
  - “Dispenser” (to clarify that not all dispensers meter flow)

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- “Electrical equipment” (to clarify that applies only to exemption described in WAC 173-360A-0110(1)(i), consistent with EPA’s interpretation of federal rule).
- “Field-constructed tank” (to make consistent with federal rule)
- “Free product (to make consistent with cleanup rule)
- “Install” (to clarify not all equipment is placed in ground)
- “Motor fuel” (to make consistent with federal rule – clarify includes biofuels)
- “Operational life” (to clarify includes periods of temporary closure, consistent with EPA’s interpretation of federal rule)
- “Owner” (to change lender liability exclusion, to eliminate exclusion for an agency of the state or a unit of local government that acquired ownership or control involuntarily, and to clarify includes owners at time of permanent closure or change-in-service)
- “Person” (to clarify includes associations and partnerships, consistent with cleanup rule)
- “Petroleum” (to make consistent with federal rule – include petroleum derived from non-crude oil products)
- “Rectifier adjustment” (to clarify who may perform such services)
- “Release” (to clarify includes any entry into the environment, consistent with definition of “release detection”)
- “Release detection” (to make consistent with federal rule – clarify that includes leaks into interstitial spaces; also eliminated reference to “secondary barriers,” which are no longer used or allowed as secondary containment under state rule)
- “Repair” (to make consistent with federal rule – clarify includes restoration of any component that is not functioning properly)
- “Secondary containment” (to make consistent with federal rule – clarify that includes containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring)
- “Site assessment” (to specify that includes any investigation of the environment, including “site checks”)
- “Site check” (to specify that is a type of “site assessment”)
- “Tightness testing” (to clarify that includes testing the tightness of any UST system component (not just tanks and piping)
- “Under-dispenser containment” (to clarify that must be designed to prevent leaks from reaching the environment, consistent with definitions of “release” and “release detection”)
- “Underground storage tank” (to eliminate duplicative statement that excludes exempt UST systems; the applicability of the rule to UST systems is set forth in WAC 173-360A-0110, not in this definition)
- “Upgrade” (to clarify includes release detection equipment)



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**Part 2 – Administration and enforcement**

Licensing

- Incorporated licensing requirements for UST systems specified in RCW 90.76.020(4). Processes reflect current practice under the statute.

Fees

- Eliminated requirement that owners must pay tank fees after an UST system has undergone permanent closure or a change-in-service until any releases have been cleaned up.
- Incorporated changes to the state tank fee authorized under RCW 90.76.090 since the rule was last amended.

Facility compliance tags

- Incorporated facility compliance tag requirements for UST systems specified in RCW 90.76.020(5). Processes reflect current practice under the statute.

Reporting

- Updated list of changes and services to UST systems that must be reported based on changes elsewhere in the rule (such as new operation and maintenance testing and inspections).
- Changed reporting requirements for sellers:
  - Eliminated requirement that persons who sell property containing UST systems must notify buyer of licensing requirements. Persons who sell tanks, whether new or installed, must still notify buyer.
  - Added requirement that persons who lease tanks must notify lessee.

Recordkeeping

- Updated list of records that must be maintained based on changes elsewhere in the rule.
- Eliminated specific requirement about where records must be maintained. Clarified that records only need to be made readily available for inspection upon request.
- Eliminated requirement that decommissioning records must be maintained since such records must already be submitted to Ecology upon permanent closure or change-in-service.
- Added requirement that records must be transferred upon changes in ownership or operation.

Compliance monitoring, investigation, and access

- Added requirement that Ecology's compliance monitoring program must be consistent with, and no less stringent than, the program required by the underground storage tank compliance act of 2005, consistent with changes to RCW 90.76.005 and 90.76.020.

Enforcement

- To comply with state program approval requirements in §281.42, clarified how the state will ensure public participation in the enforcement process.

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Civil penalties

- Consistent with changes to RCW 90.76.080(3) in the authorizing statute, changed options for appealing penalties incurred under this chapter.

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**Part 3 – Installation and performance standards**

Installation of UST systems and components

- Added requirement that owners and operators must confirm planned start date at least three business days before starting installation.
- For emergency replacements, changed notification requirements. The department must be notified before installation starts instead of within seven days of completing installation.
- Consistent with §280.20(d) of the federal rule, clarified that installation requirements apply to all UST system components, not just tanks and piping.
- Consistent with §280.20(d) and §280.251(d) of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used to comply with installation requirements. Added two codes not included in the federal rule.
- Clarified under what conditions used tanks may be installed as part of an UST system.
- Clarified process for certifying and reporting installations of UST systems and tanks when applying for a license, including what documentation must be submitted.
- Added requirement that the manufacturer's installation checklist must be completed and submitted with the license application.
- Added requirement that installation records must be maintained until the UST system is permanently closed or undergoes a change-in-service, consistent with existing requirement for repairs to UST systems.

Performance standards for new UST systems and components

- For tanks and piping:
  - Consistent with §280.20(a)(3) of the federal rule, changed tank material classifications (from “steel-fiberglass-reinforced-plastic composite tanks” to “steel tanks clad or jacketed with a non-corrodible material”), except replaced the term “steel” with “metal.”
  - Consistent §§280.20(a) and (b) and §280.251(b) of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used to comply with the performance requirements for tanks and piping.
  - Replaced the term “steel” with “metal” to clarify applicability of performance standards, consistent with usage elsewhere in the rule.
- For corrosion protection, to be consistent with §280.20(a)(4) and §280.20(b)(3), added option for demonstrating that the environment around the UST system is not corrosive enough to cause the system to have a release due to corrosion during its operational life. In such cases, cathodic protection is not required for metal tanks and piping. Unlike under the federal rule, specified that assessments must also be performed every five years after installation and that reports documenting the determination and its basis must be submitted to the department.
- For secondary containment:
  - Eliminated secondary barriers as an option for hazardous substance UST systems installed on or before October 1, 2012, since all such systems are double-walled and secondary barriers may no longer be used.

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- Consistent with §280.252(a) of the federal rule, added exemptions for airport hydrant systems and for field-constructed tanks > 50,000 gallons.
- For under-dispenser containment, added requirement that must be factory-built or machine-tooled, unless otherwise approved by the department. The requirement only applies to equipment installed or replaced after effective date of rule.
- For spill prevention, clarified that equipment must be liquid-tight to prevent releases.
- For overfill prevention:
  - Consistent with §280.20(c)(3) of the federal rule, specified that flow restrictors in vent lines may no longer be used to comply with requirements when such equipment is installed or replaced after effective date of the rule. Unlike under the federal rule, also specified that flow restrictors needing repairs must be replaced.
  - Clarified that high level alarms must be audible.

Upgrade requirements for existing UST systems

- Consistent with §280.21 of the federal rule, added requirement that existing UST systems not meeting upgrade requirements must be permanently closed, unless tanks meet requirements and an upgrade is determined to be appropriate by the department.
- Consistent with §280.21(b)(1)(ii) of the federal rule, added requirement that lined tanks must be permanently closed if the lining cannot be repaired.
- Consistent with §280.21(b) of the federal rule, maintained list of historical codes of practice for upgrading tanks.
- Added requirement that upgrade records must be maintained until the UST system is permanently closed or undergoes a change-in-service.
- Clarified that upgrade requirements for tanks and piping apply to all those made of metal, not just those made of steel.

Upgrade requirements for previously deferred UST systems

- Consistent with §§280.251 and 280.252 of the federal rule, added upgrade requirements for previously deferred UST systems. Except as follows, the requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Added requirement that upgrade records must be maintained until the UST system is permanently closed or undergoes a change-in-service. The federal rule does not require records of upgrades to be maintained, except for repairs.

Performance standards for partially exempt UST systems

- Consistent with §280.11 of the federal rule, exempted aboveground storage tanks associated with previously deferred UST systems from the requirements of this section.
- Clarified that corrosion protection requirements for partially exempt UST systems apply to all metal tanks and piping, not just those made of steel.
- To be consistent with §280.11(b), cathodic protection is not required for metal tanks and piping if a corrosion expert determines that the environment around the UST system is not corrosive enough to cause the system to have a release due to corrosion during its operational life. Unlike

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under the federal rule, assessments must also be performed every five years after installation and reports documenting the determination and its basis are submitted to the department.

- Consistent with §280.11 of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used as guidance for complying with performance standards.

Compatibility requirements for UST systems

- Consistent with §280.32 of the federal rule, added compatibility demonstration requirements for UST systems storing regulated substances containing greater than ten percent ethanol or twenty percent biodiesel or any other regulated substances identified by the department. Except as follows, the requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Specified that compatibility demonstrations are also required for UST systems storing hazardous substances. The federal rule does not require this.
  - Specified that records of compatibility demonstrations must be maintained “until the system is permanently closed or undergoes a change-in-service.” The federal rule requires such records to be maintained “for as long as system used to store the regulated substance.”

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**Part 4 – Operation and maintenance**

Transfer of regulated substances

- Consistent with §280.30 of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used to comply with spill and overfill control requirements.
- Added requirement that product deliverers must comply with spill and overfill control requirements.
- Added requirement that product deliverers and waste oil collectors must report any spill or overfill of regulated substances immediately to the owner or operator.

Changes in regulated substances

- Consistent with §280.32 of the federal rule, changed when the department must be notified when the regulated substances stored in an UST system are changed to substances containing greater than ten percent ethanol or twenty percent biodiesel or other substances identified by the department (from 30 days after to 30 days before). Unlike the federal rule, this requirement also applies to changes to hazardous substances.

Operation and maintenance walkthrough inspections

- Consistent with §280.36 and §280.252(c) of the federal rule, added walkthrough inspection requirements. Except as follows, the requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Specified that forms used to document walkthrough inspections must be provided by Ecology or in the code of practice used to perform the inspection. The federal rule does not specify.
  - Specified that records of walkthrough inspections must be maintained for three years. The federal rule specifies one year.
  - Specified that walkthrough inspections must begin upon installation (for systems installed after effective date) or one year after effective date (for systems installed on or before effective date). Federal rule specifies 3 years after effective date for all systems.

Operation and maintenance of corrosion protection

- Consistent with §280.31 of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used to comply with cathodic protection testing requirements.
- Added requirement that a corrosion expert or cathodic protection tester must be notified within 24 hours following an inspection of an impressed current cathodic protection system if the system is not operating properly.
- Changed record retention for cathodic protection tests from last two tests, which is the same as the federal rule, to six years (two compliance inspections). Tests are performed every 3 years.
- Changed record retention for rectifier inspections from last three inspections, which is the same as the federal rule, to three years (one compliance inspection).

Operation and maintenance of internal linings

- Consistent with §280.21(b) of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used to comply with internal inspection requirements for lined tanks.

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- Consistent with §280.21(b)(1)(ii) of the federal rule, added requirement that lined tanks must be permanently closed if the lining cannot be repaired.

Operation and maintenance of containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring and spill prevention equipment

- Consistent with §280.35 of the federal rule, added operation and maintenance requirements for containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring of piping and spill prevention equipment. Also, consistent with EPA's interpretation of the federal rule, clarified that low liquid level integrity tests may be used to meet testing requirements for containment sumps. Except as follows, the requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Specified that tightness tests must be performed by certified service provider. The federal rule does not specify who may perform tests.
  - Specified that tightness tests must be reported. The federal rule does not require reporting.
  - Specified that records of periodic monitoring must be retained for three years (one inspection cycle). The federal rule requires such records to be maintained for as long as the equipment is periodically monitored.
  - Specified that records of tightness tests must be retained for six years (two inspection cycles). The federal rule requires such records to be maintained for three years.
  - Specified that compliance dates for previously installed UST systems depends on whether the identification number on the facility compliance tag is even (two years after effective date) or odd (three years after effective date). The federal rule requires compliance within three years. This is intended to avoid having the deadline for testing and inspections by service providers of all previously installed UST systems (more than 9,000) be at the same time, which has been an implementation problem in other states.

Operation and maintenance of overfill prevention equipment

- Consistent with §280.35 of the federal rule, added operation and maintenance requirements of overfill prevention equipment. Except as follows, the requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Specified that inspections must be performed by a certified service provider. The federal rule does not specify who may perform the inspections.
  - Specified that inspections must be reported. The federal rule does not require reporting.
  - Specified that flow restrictors in vent lines needing repairs must be replaced with another type of overfill prevention equipment.
  - Specified that records of inspections must be retained for six years (two inspection cycles). The federal rule requires such records to be maintained for three years.
  - Specified that compliance dates for previously installed UST systems depends on whether the identification number on the facility compliance tag is even (two years after effective date) or odd (three years after effective date). The federal rule requires compliance within three years. This is intended to avoid having the deadline for testing and inspections by service providers of all previously installed UST systems (more than 9,000) be at the same time, which has been an implementation problem in other states.

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Operation and maintenance of release detection equipment

- Consistent with §280.40(a)(3) and §280.45(b)(1) and (c) of the federal rule, added operation and maintenance requirements for release detection equipment. Except as follows, the requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Specified that tests must be performed by a certified service provider. The federal rule does not specify who may perform the tests.
  - Specified that tests must be reported. The federal rule does not require reporting.
  - Specified that schedules of required calibration and maintenance must be maintained for as long as the equipment is used. The federal rule requires such records to be maintained for five years.
  - Specified that testing of release detection equipment must begin upon installation (for systems installed after effective date) or either two or three years after effective date (for systems installed on or before effective date) based on whether the facility compliance tag number is even or odd. The federal rule requires compliance within three years for all UST systems.

Repairs of UST system components

- Consistent with definition of “repair” in §280.12 of the federal rule, clarified that “repairs” include any action to restore to proper operating condition any UST system component that is not operating properly.
- Consistent with §280.33(a) of the federal rule, updated the codes of practice that may be used to comply with requirements for performing repairs.
- Consistent with §280.33(d) of the federal rule, added requirement that repaired secondary containment areas of tanks and piping used for interstitial monitoring must be tightness tested within thirty days of the repair. Except as follows, the test requirements are the same as in the federal rule:
  - Specified that tests must be performed by a certified service provider. The federal rule does not specify who may perform such tests.
  - Specified that tests must be reported. The federal rule does not require reporting.
  - Specified that records of tests must be retained for three years (one inspection cycle). The federal rule does not clearly specify record retention for such tests.
- Consistent with §280.33(d) of the federal rule, added requirement that repaired containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring of piping must be tested within thirty days of the repair.
- Consistent with §280.33(f) of the federal rule, added requirement that repaired spill prevention equipment must be tested within thirty days of the repair.
- Consistent with §280.33(f) of the federal rule, added requirement that repaired overflow prevention equipment must be inspected within thirty days of the repair.
- Added requirement that repaired electronic or mechanical release detection equipment must be tested within 30 days of repair. The federal rule does not require such testing upon repair.



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**Part 5 – Operator training**

- Consistent with the definition of “Class C operator” in §280.12 of the federal rule, eliminated requirement that a Class C operator must be an employee.
- Consistent with §280.242 of the federal rule, added equipment compatibility demonstrations and new operation and maintenance to the training requirements for Class A and Class B operators.
- Updated grandfather clause to clarify that retraining is not required merely because the training requirements are changed.
- Added requirements that existing Class A and/or B training programs and examinations must be revised to reflect changes in training requirements and approved by the department. Updates must be submitted within six months of the effective date of the rule.
- Eliminated exemption from retraining requirements for Class A and Class B operators retrained annually.
- Added operation and maintenance of containment sumps to the list of what must be included in operation and maintenance plans, consistent with new requirements.

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**Part 6 – Release detection**

General requirements

- Consistent with §280.40(c) of the federal rule, clarified that closure requirement apply to all UST systems, not just “existing UST systems.”
- Consistent with §280.40(a)(4) of the federal rule, clarified that performance claims for release detection methods and equipment and their manner of determination must be described in writing by the manufacturer, vendor, or installer.
- Consistent with EPA’s implementation of §280.40(a)(4), clarified that, except for inventory control and manual tank gauging, the methods or equipment used to perform release detection must be certified in writing by the manufacturer or vendor or an independent third party as capable of meeting the applicable performance standards using a test procedure developed by EPA or a nationally recognized association or independent testing laboratory or deemed equivalent to one developed by EPA.
- Clarified requirement that release detection equipment must be operated in accordance with any conditions or limitations specified in the certification of the method or equipment.

General requirements – recordkeeping

- Changed retention period for certification records from five years to as long as the equipment or method is used. The retention period in the federal rule is five years.
- Consistent with §280.45(a) of the federal rule, specified that site evaluation records used for vapor and groundwater monitoring methods must be maintained for as long as the method is used. Unlike the federal rule, made requirement apply on effective date of rule instead of within three years of effective date.
- Consistent with §280.45(b)(2) and (3) of the federal rule, changed recordkeeping requirements for release detection results. Except as follows, the requirements are the same:
  - Changed retention period for tank and line tightness test results from the last test to the last two tests, including when performed on previously deferred UST systems. The federal rule requires the last test result.
  - Specified that retention period for results from vapor monitoring using a tracer compound every two years is the last two test results. The federal rule requires the last test result.
  - Changed retention period for results from all other release detection methods, including when performed on previously deferred UST systems, from five years to three years. The federal rule requires the last test result.

Release detection methods for tanks

- Consistent with §280.20 of the federal rule, specified that previously deferred UST systems installed after effective date of rule must be interstitially monitored.
- To be consistent with §280.43 of the federal rule, eliminated monthly manual tank gauging as an allowable method of release detection, either alone or in combination with tank tightness testing. This method was only allowed for emergency power generator UST systems.

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- Consistent with §280.43(b)(5) of the federal rule, changed the applicability of the combined method of weekly manual tank gauging and tank tightness testing.
- Consistent with §280.43(b)(5) of the federal rule, changed the applicability of weekly manual tank gauging as a sole method of release detection.
- For interstitial monitoring method, eliminated requirements for UST systems that are secondarily contained using secondary barriers. According to Ecology's database, there are no UST systems in the state using secondary barriers to meet regulatory requirements. Secondary barriers are no longer allowed.
- Consistent with §280.252(d)(1) of the federal rule, incorporated additional release detection methods for certain previously deferred UST systems installed before effective date of the rule (those systems not requiring secondary containment).

Release detection methods for piping

- Consistent with §280.20 of the federal rule, specified that previously deferred UST systems installed after effective date of rule must be interstitially monitored.
- Added automatic electronic line leak detection as a monthly method for pressurized piping. The method was previously allowed as an "other method" of release detection. Ecology's database shows that eight UST systems are using this method as their primary method.
- Consistent with §280.252(d)(2) of the federal rule, incorporated additional release detection methods for certain previously deferred UST systems installed before effective date of the rule (those systems not requiring secondary containment).

Weekly manual tank gauging

- Added requirements that equipment must be able to measure water levels, and that water levels must be measured at least once each month.
- Consistent with §280.43(b) of the federal rule, changed tank criteria and test standards.

Automatic tank gauging

- Consistent with §280.43(d), added specific requirements for automatic tank gauging based on the mode used to perform the test (in-tank static test or continuous in-tank leak detection).

Monthly automatic electronic line leak detection

- Specified that automatic electronic line leak detection may be used as a monthly method, and specified requirements for use of the method. The method is allowed under the repealed rule as an "other method."

Vapor and groundwater monitoring

- Consistent with §280.45(a) of the federal rule, specified who may perform site evaluations. Unlike the federal rule, specified that site evaluations must be reported to the department with the checklist documenting the installation.

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Statistical inventory reconciliation (SIR)

- To be consistent with §280.43(h) of the federal rule, changed the performance standards for SIR.
- To be consistent with §280.43(h) of the federal rule and to comply with state program approval requirements, changed by when conclusive results must be obtained (to within the thirty-day monitoring period).
- To be consistent with §280.43(h) of the federal rule, eliminated requirements governing how long the SIR vendor has to submit results to owners and operators.

Other methods

- Added monthly automatic electronic line leak detection and line tightness testing as baselines for other methods.

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**Part 7 – Release reporting, confirmation, and cleanup**

Reporting of suspected releases

- Eliminated Ecology’s authority to specify a period other than 24 hours for reporting suspected releases. Ecology retained existing requirement.
- To be consistent with §280.50(a) of the federal rule, added presence of vapors as an example of environmental conditions that must be reported as a suspected release.
- Consistent with §280.50(b) of the federal rule, added presence of liquid in interstitial space as an example of an unusual operating condition that must be reported as a suspected release.
- Consistent with §280.50(b)(3), added removal of liquid from interstitial space as condition for not reporting a suspected release based on unusual operating conditions.
- Consistent with §280.50(c) of the federal rule, added monitoring alarms as an indication of a suspected release.
- Consistent with §280.50(c)(4) of the federal rule, added example of a false alarm from a release detection method.
- Consistent with §280.50(c)(2) of the federal rule, clarified conditions under which a suspected release based on interstitial monitoring results does not need to be reported.

Investigation due to off-facility impacts

- To be consistent with §280.50(a) of the federal rule, added presence of vapors as an example of environmental conditions under which the department may require investigation of a suspected release.

Release investigation and confirmation steps

- For systems tests:
  - Consistent with §280.52(a) of the federal rule, added option of testing the secondary containment of tanks and piping in place of tank or line tightness test.
  - Consistent with §280.52(a) of the federal rule, replaced term “leak” with “release” to reflect the fact that leaks from secondarily contained UST systems may not result in releases.
  - For cases where a system test indicates a release may have occurred, changed requirements to allow a site check to confirm a suspected release before remedial action is required under chapter 173-340 WAC.
- For site checks, clarified next steps when results do not indicate a release that poses a threat. Also clarified that only releases that may pose a threat to human health or the environment require remedial action under chapter 173-340 WAC.

Site assessment requirements

- Incorporated into the rule minimum requirements for site assessments from the guidance document referenced in the repealed rule. Except as follows, the requirements are the same:
  - For assessing single tanks in place, increased the number of samples from three to five for tanks between 9,000 and 20,000 gallons. For assessing multiple tanks in place, clarified the number of additional samples required for each additional tank.

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- For assessing connected dispensers (either removed or in place), clarified that one sample must be collected for each connected dispenser instead of for each dispenser island.
- For assessing single tanks removed from the ground, increased the number of samples from three to five for tanks between 9,000 and 20,000 gallons. For assessing multiple tanks removed from the ground, increased the number of additional samples for each additional tank from one to two.
- For assessing excavated soils, reduced the number of required samples when there is less than 51 cubic yards from three to two (for 26-50) and one (for 0-25).
- For assessing UST system components in place, specified that samples must be collected as close as practicable to, but no more than ten feet from the applicable component. The repealed rule does not specify an outside limit.
- Changed deadline for service providers to report confirmed releases to the department from 72 hours to 24 hours to be consistent with reporting requirements for owners and operators.

Reporting and cleanup of spills and overfills

- To be consistent with the state's cleanup rules in Chapter 173-340 WAC, clarified that any spill or overfill that may pose a threat to human health or the environment must be reported and cleaned up under the state's cleanup rules, not just those spills and overfills exceeding the specified volumetric thresholds. Other spills and overfills only need to be reported if they are not contained and cleaned up as specified within 24 hours.

Reporting and cleanup of confirmed releases

- Clarified that only releases that may pose a threat to human health and the environment must be reported to Ecology and cleaned up under the state's cleanup rules in Chapter 173-340 WAC.

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**Part 8 – Closure**

Temporary closure of UST systems

- Clarified that if an UST system will be temporarily closed for more than ninety days, then required closure activities must be completed and reported within thirty days of closure on the specified form.
- Added requirement that UST systems temporarily closed for more than ninety days must either be emptied or the amount of regulated substance remaining in the system must be measured.
- Clarified that Ecology must be notified within thirty days of an UST system being emptied (as change in the status of an UST system).
- Eliminated “0.3 percent by weight of the total capacity” as a criteria for determining whether an UST system is empty.
- Consistent with §280.70(a) of the federal rule, specified that tests and inspections of spill and overfill prevention equipment may be suspended during temporary closure.
- Consistent with §280.70(a) of the federal rule, specified that release detection and tests and inspections of release detection equipment, containment sumps, and hydrant pits and vaults may be suspended during temporary closure if the UST system is empty.
- To be consistent with §280.113 of the federal rule, added requirement that financial responsibility must be maintained during temporary closure. However, unlike the federal rule, specified that financial responsibility does not need to be maintained during temporary closure if the UST system is emptied and a site assessment is completed after the system is emptied. A site assessment is not needed if a release had previously been confirmed and further remedial action is needed to clean up the confirmed release.
- Clarified that UST systems temporarily closed more than twelve months must be permanently closed if the tanks and piping do not meet applicable performance standards or upgrade requirements.
- For UST systems temporarily closed more than ninety days that are required to tightness test tanks and piping, clarified how to obtain authorization for a one-time deposit of regulated substances needed to perform tests. Also added requirement that a preliminary evaluation of the tank must be completed before Ecology will authorize deposit.
- For UST systems temporarily closed more than ninety days, added requirement that any tests or inspections suspended during temporary closure must be performed before returning an UST system to operation.
- Clarified requirements for notifying Ecology after returning an UST system temporarily closed more than ninety days to operation.

Permanent closure and change-in-service of UST systems

- Clarified that permanent closure requirements apply to circumstances when only a portion of an UST system (tank or piping run) is being closed.
- Added requirement that Ecology must be notified of any change in the planned start date for permanent closure or change-in-service at least three business days before starting.
- Eliminated requirement that permanent closure or change-in-service must be completed within 90 days of Ecology’s receipt of the notice of intent.

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- Consistent with §280.71(c) of the federal rule, updated the codes of practices that may be used to comply with decommissioning requirements.
- Eliminated requirement that decommissioning records must be maintained since such records must be submitted to Ecology.
- Clarified that a site assessment is not required when a release from the UST system had previously been confirmed and further remedial action is necessary to clean up the confirmed release.
- Eliminated exception to site assessment requirement in cases where vapor or groundwater monitoring is used as a release detection method and monitoring does not indicate a release.
- Clarified that facility compliance tags (not permits) must be returned to Ecology if there are no UST systems in operation at the facility.
- Specified that Ecology must be notified of the permanent closure of partially exempt UST systems. Such systems no longer need to comply with any other closure requirements.

Previously closed UST systems

- Consistent with §280.252(e) of the federal rule, added previously deferred UST systems closed before effective date of rule to those systems that must comply with the requirements governing previously closed UST systems.
- Clarified that UST systems closed before becoming subject to regulation must be permanently closed in accordance with requirements in this chapter if any additional closure activities are performed, such as removal.



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**Part 9 – Service providers**

General requirements

- Clarified that UST system services must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a service provider. Made clarification throughout rule.

Certifications required to perform services

- Clarified which UST system services require a service provider (which is also specified throughout the chapter) and the types of certification required to perform those services.
- Specified that assessments of corrosion potential, which are now allowed under the proposed rule, must be performed by a corrosion expert.
- Specified that the following new required services must be performed by a service provider certified in tightness testing or installation/repair:
  - Testing of containment sumps used for interstitial monitoring.
  - Testing of spill prevention equipment.
  - Testing of release detection equipment.
  - Inspections of overfill prevention equipment.
  - Testing of secondary containment areas of tanks or piping used for interstitial monitoring.

Certification of service providers

- Consistent with §280.45(a) of the federal rule, added being licensed as a professional hydrogeologist in Washington state as a method of being certified as a site assessor, provided the person is able to demonstrate competence in site assessment by means of examination, experience, or education.
- Added certification by the Steel Tank Institute as a method of being certified as a cathodic protection tester.

Responsibilities of service providers

- Added requirement that tanks and piping runs undergoing permanent closure may not be removed from the ground unless both the service provider decommissioning the tanks or piping runs and the service provider performing the site assessment are present.
- Clarified how quickly service providers must report non-compliance to owners or operators (within 24 hours).
- Changed deadline for service providers to report confirmed releases to Ecology from within 72 hours to within 24 hours to make consistent with reporting requirements for owners and operators.

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**Part 10 – Financial responsibility**

Applicability

- Changed applicability of financial responsibility requirements to include hazardous substance UST systems, consistent with legislative direction in authorizing state statute in RCW 90.76.020(1)(g). All such systems already have qualifying financial assurances.

Definitions and usage

- Consistent with §280.92 of the federal rule, moved definitions of terms used only in Part 10 (financial responsibility) from the general definition section in WAC 173-360A-0150.
- Consistent with §280.92 of the federal rule, changed definition of “accidental release” to clarify that owners and operators are required to have financial responsibility for releases arising from the operating USTs (including releases due to filling USTs and releases occurring at dispensers).
- Consistent with §280.92 of the federal rule, added definition of term “chief financial officer” to implement the local government financial assurance options also added from the federal rule.
- Consistent with §280.92 of the federal rule, added definition of term “local government” to implement the local government options also added from the federal rule.
- Consistent with §280.92 of the federal rule, eliminated definition of term “petroleum marketing firms.” The term, which was used to set compliance dates for existing UST systems, is no longer used in the rule.
- Consistent with §280.92 of the federal rule, added definition of term “substantial government relationship” to implement the local government options also added from the federal rule.
- Replaced use of federal term “corrective action” with state term “remedial action” to make usage consistent with the state cleanup rules in Chapter 173-340 WAC, which governs the cleanup of releases from UST systems.
- Replaced use of term “director” with “department” throughout this Part of the rule.

Period of financial responsibility

- Consistent with §280.113 of the federal rule, specified that financial responsibility must be maintained until the UST system is permanently closed or undergoes a change-in-service.
- Unlike the federal rule, specified that financial responsibility does not need to be maintained during temporary closure if the UST system is emptied and a site assessment is completed after the system is emptied. A site assessment is not needed if a release had previously been confirmed and further remedial action is needed to clean up the confirmed release.
- Unlike the federal rule, specified that financial responsibility does not need to be maintained after permanent closure or change-in-service until any releases from the UST system are cleaned up.

State fund financial assurance option

- Eliminated requirements for state fund option since there is no such option in Washington state.

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Local government financial assurance options

- Consistent with the federal rule, added local government options as allowable financial assurance mechanisms for local governments. Incorporated applicable requirements and boilerplates from the federal rule throughout this Part of the rule.

Recordkeeping by owners and operators

- Eliminated requirement that specifies where financial responsibility records must be maintained. Records must still be made available upon request by the department.

Reporting by owners and operators

- Updated financial responsibility certification requirements to make consistent with changes in licensing procedures based on changes in RCW 90.76.020(4) of the authorizing state statute. The owner or operator must provide proof of financial responsibility to the Department of Revenue (DOR) upon application for a license. DOR must also be notified of any substitution of financial assurances and any cancellation or termination of financial assurances. DOR will not renew licenses without current proof of financial responsibility.
- Clarified which documents must be submitted to DOR to demonstrate financial responsibility.
- For insurance, to demonstrate financial responsibility, specified that need to submit both certification of financial responsibility and certificate of insurance or endorsement.

Mechanisms – Financial tests and bond rating tests

- Clarified by when Ecology must be notified if an owner or operator fails to obtain alternate coverage after it is determined the owner or operator no longer meets the requirements of the applicable financial test or bond rating test, consistent with requirements in WAC 173-360A-1045 (reporting of owners or operators).

Mechanism – Insurance and risk retention group coverage

- Clarified that insurance must cover claims arising from an accidental release arising from the operation of underground storage tanks, regardless of how the release was discovered or identified. This includes accidental releases discovered or identified during any removal of underground storage tanks or environmental investigation, regardless of whether the action was required by the department. This also includes releases discovered or identified by persons other than the insured.

Certificates of insurance and endorsement boilerplates

- Added “policy retroactive date” to information that must be included on certificates of insurance and endorsements to insurance policies.
- Added contact information for Business Licensing Service to help inform both the insurer and insured who holds the endorsement.

Performance bond and letter of credit boilerplates

- Added reference to state law, which also requires financial assurance.