

Underground Storage Tank Fact Sheet

Temporary Closure Requirements for UST Systems

What is a temporarily closed UST?

Occasionally for business reasons, the owner of regulated underground storage tanks may temporarily stop dispensing product from any one or all of the USTs at a facility location. Reasons for temporary closure include the need for major repairs or upgrades to the UST system, the planned sale of the property or the pending disposition of the property during a bankruptcy. The halt may be permanent if future decommissioning of the UST system is planned and the property is to be used for a different purpose.

Whether or not the halt in operations is for a limited time after which it is intended to bring the UST systems back into operation, or the intent is to permanently decommission the USTs, the tank owner and permittee must notify DEQ and continue performing certain operation and maintenance requirements.

Definitions

Change-in-service – means to transfer the UST from regulated status to non-regulated status with the UST remaining in its original location. A soil sampling plan must be submitted to DEQ for approval and a site assessment must be completed as part of a change-in-service.

Empty – an UST is considered empty if no more than one inch (2.5 centimeters) of residue or 0.3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the tank remains in the UST.

UST Services – performing UST services means installing, decommissioning, modifying, testing or inspecting UST systems.

When do I notify DEQ of a temporary UST closure?

You must notify DEQ within 30 days of placing an UST system into temporary closure by submitting the DEQ form *Notification of Temporary Closure of Underground Storage Tanks*.

Upon receipt of a temporary closure notification, DEQ will issue a *Temporary Closure Certificate*

that is valid for one year. Before the year is up, you must decide to do one of the following:

- Complete a change-in-service,
- Permanently decommission the UST system,
- Place the UST system back into operation, or
- Ask for an extension of the *Temporary Closure Certificate* by submitting to DEQ the form *Request for Extension – Temporary Closure of Underground Storage Tanks*.

NOTE: If you ask for an extension, you must also submit results of a current site assessment with the request.

What am I required to do during temporary closure?

For temporary closures of less than three months:

- Perform release detection on tanks and piping per requirements, unless the tanks are empty (release detection is not required if the USTs are empty).
- If USTs and piping are metal, operate and test corrosion protection equipment per requirements.
- If the USTs are lined, inspect the lining per requirements.
- Report suspected releases within 24 hours and investigate within seven days. Report confirmed releases within 24 hours and investigate and start cleanup actions.
- Maintain financial responsibility.
- Repair, modify or replace UST system components as necessary to correct, detect or prevent releases.
- Maintain all applicable records on release detection, corrosion protection, lining inspections, release investigations and cleanup actions.
- Pay annual compliance fees by the invoice due date.

NOTE: The tank owner and permittee cannot perform UST services unless they have taken and passed the applicable national exam for the UST service being performed. Tank owners and



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Environmental
Quality

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Last Updated: 7/15/13
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permittees do not, however, have to apply for the applicable supervisor's UST services license.

For temporary closures from three to 12 months

- Meet all the requirements for less than three months **AND**
- Make sure vent lines are open to allow vapors in the USTs to escape.
- Cap and secure all lines, pumps, access-ways and ancillary equipment to prevent the USTs from being used.

For temporary closures of more than 12 months

- Meet all the requirements of temporary closure for three to 12 months **AND**
- 30 days before expiration date of the *Temporary Closure Certificate* submit one of the following:
 - A written notice of your intent to decommission or complete a change-in-service using the DEQ form *30-Day Notice of Intent to Decommission USTs or Complete a Change-in-Service*.
 - A written request to return the UST system to operational status using the DEQ form *Return to Service Application*.
 - A written request for extension of the *Temporary Closure Certificate* by submitting to DEQ the form *Request for Extension – Temporary Closure of Underground Storage Tanks*).

NOTE: If you ask for an extension, you must submit the results of a current site assessment with the request.

What may DEQ ask for if I submit a request to extend a temporary certificate?

If you request an extension of a *Temporary Closure Certificate*, DEQ:

- **May** ask to see all applicable records pertaining to release detection, corrosion protection, tank lining, etc. collected during the period of temporary closure.
- **Will** ask for a copy of a current site assessment that documents environmental contamination, if any, at the facility.

What will DEQ expect if I submit a request to return the UST system to operational status?

If you request to return a temporarily closed UST system to operational status, DEQ will expect you to demonstrate:

- That all UST system components (i.e., tanks, piping, release detection, corrosion

protection, etc.) comply with the applicable equipment standards.

- That you comply with financial responsibility requirements.

How to obtain copies of forms referenced in this fact sheet

Contact DEQ, in Portland, at 503-229-6652, leave a message on our toll-free Help Line at 1-800-742-7878, or get the forms from DEQ's web site at

www.deq.state.or.us/lq/tanks/ust/

How to contact DEQ UST inspectors to discuss temporary closure requirements

In Northwest Oregon (Clatsop, Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington counties):

- Portland office, 2020 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 400, 503-229-5263

In Western Oregon (Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties):

- Salem office: 750 Front St. NE, Suite 120, 503-378-8240
- Coos Bay office: 381 N. Second St., 541-269-2721

In Eastern Oregon (Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler counties):

- The Dalles office: Columbia Gorge Community College, 400 E. Scenic Drive, Building 2, 541-298-7255

Alternate formats

Alternate formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communication and Outreach, Portland, at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. Hearing impaired persons may call 711.