

# Focus on the New UST Secondary Containment Requirement

## Toxics Cleanup Program

August 2012

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature amended the state Underground Storage Tank (UST) law (Chapter 90.76 RCW) to include requirements of the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. In August 2012, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) revised the UST rule (Chapter 173-360 WAC) to include these changes. These new requirements are designed to help prevent or reduce leaks to the environment from UST systems (tanks, pipes, and dispensers). Leaks can and do pollute groundwater, a precious resource which supplies drinking water for 60 percent of Washington residents.

### When do the new secondary containment and under-dispenser containment rules take effect?

The new rules take effect on October 1, 2012.

### What are the changes in state rules regarding secondary containment?

Under the new rules:

- Tanks installed or replaced after October 1, 2012, must be double-walled.
- Pressurized piping and suction piping not meeting the standards in WAC 173-360-350(2)(b) installed or replaced after October 1, 2012, must be double-walled.
- Interstitial monitoring is the only release detection method allowed for tanks and piping installed after October 1, 2012.
- Dispensers installed or replaced after October 1, 2012, must have under-dispenser containment (UDC).

### What does secondary containment mean?

Secondary containment is a release prevention and release detection system for underground tanks and piping. The release prevention part of secondary containment is an underground tank or pipe having an inner and outer barrier (double-walled tanks and piping.) Between these two barriers is a space for monitoring. The release detection part of secondary containment is a method of monitoring the space between the inner and outer barriers for a leak or release of regulated substances from the underground tank or pipe. This is called interstitial monitoring. Interstitial monitoring is required on all new or replaced secondary containment systems. Documentation of interstitial monitoring must be performed at least once every 30 days.

### Are existing systems affected?

Existing systems are not required to add secondary containment unless piping is being replaced.

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## When is secondary containment required for replacement piping?

If greater than 50 percent of a single piping run is being replaced, then all of the single piping run must be replaced with double-wall piping. Interstitial monitoring is the required method of release detection for piping replaced or installed after October 1, 2012.

“Piping run” means the underground piping connecting a tank to a dispenser systems or other end-use equipment, or as otherwise approved by Ecology.

## What is under-dispenser containment?

Under-dispenser containment (UDC) means containment underneath a dispenser system designed to prevent leaks from the dispenser system from reaching soil or ground water. UDC must be designed, constructed, and installed to be liquid-tight on its sides, bottom, and at any penetrations. UDC must allow for visual inspection and provide access to the components in the containment system. Monitoring is optional for under-dispenser containment.

UDC is required to be placed under a dispenser if the dispenser, the dispenser system, or the underground piping connected to the dispenser system is being replaced.

## What paperwork is required to be submitted for new installations, retrofits, and repairs?

*New installations* – A 30-day notice must be submitted to Ecology 30 days prior to installing a new UST system. After installation, a tank addendum form, including a site “as-built” drawing and tank registration information, must be submitted to the Department of Revenue, Business Licensing Services.

*Retrofits and repairs* – A Retrofit/Repair Checklist must be submitted to Ecology within 30 days after installing or replacing piping or under-dispenser containment at an existing UST system, or repairing any part of the UST system.

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