



Office of the State Fire Marshal

Revised Federal UST Regulations Effective 10/13/2015

US EPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) released revised UST regulations on July 15, 2015. The new regulations become effective 90 days following that release date, which is 10/13/2015. Several of the revised requirements are already covered by the current Illinois UST regulations, while some of the revisions to federal regulations will require revisions to our state UST regulations. OSFM is in the process of doing a thorough review to see where the federal changes will require revisions to our rules so we can make those changes at the state regulation level as needed.

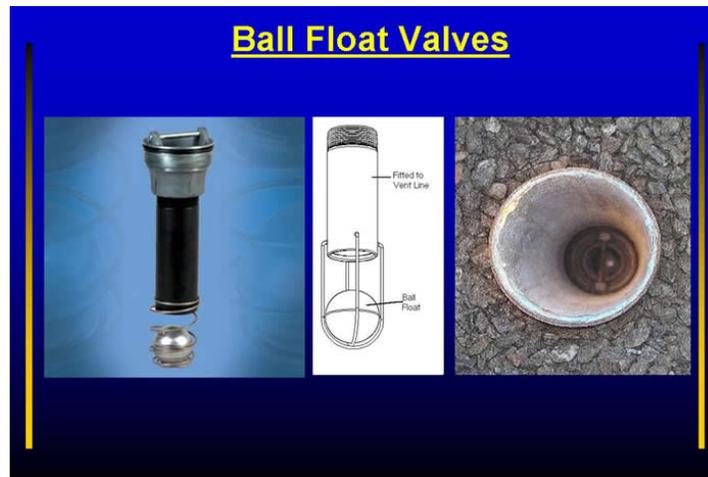
Although the revised US EPA rules are effective on 10/13/15, it is important to understand that not all changes will be implemented on that date. Implementation dates for new requirements are incorporated in the federal revisions. Those that require “immediate implementation” become effective on 10/13/15. Many of these requirements that are new federal requirements are already present in Illinois UST rules, though, so they will not be new to us. Annual line leak detector testing and leak detection on emergency power generators are examples of changes to the federal rules that already are in effect in Illinois. Some of the revisions have implementation dates of 10/13/18, or three years out from the effective date. Our regulations will be revised before that time, and we have no plans to accelerate that implementation period. Of those revisions with three year implementation dates, of special note are these:

- Training Class A/B and C Operators: This has been in effect in Illinois since 8/12/12, so no changes will be necessary to our rules or your practices from what is currently being done.
- Monthly Walk Through Inspections of UST Facilities: This will require a change from the current Quarterly Equipment Inspection required at UST facilities.
- Testing Spill Buckets every 3 years; Testing Containment Sumps with sensors every 3 years: These will require changes to our regulations and to your maintenance and testing practices.
- Inspecting Overfill Prevention Equipment every 3 years: This will require a change to our regulations and your equipment inspection practices.

While there are more changes, those are the ones that will affect the majority of regulated UST facilities the most. Remember – the implementation date is 3 years away, so there will be time to make any necessary adjustments between now and then, and the specifics of the changes will be reflected in revised Illinois UST regulations.

There are 2 changes marked for “immediate implementation” by US EPA that need to be highlighted here.

- **First:** Ball Float Vent Valves for Overfill Prevention will be prohibited for new installations or replacement starting 10/13/15. USTs currently using Ball Float Vent Valves for Overfill Prevention may continue to use this method until the Ball Float Vent Valve needs to be replaced. At that time it must be removed and either an Automatic Shut Off Valve (Flapper Valve) or an Overfill Alarm shall be installed for Overfill Prevention.



- **Second:** Owners and Operators will be required to notify OSFM at least 30 days in advance before switching to blended fuels containing greater than 10% ethanol (E10) or greater than 20% biodiesel (B20) or any other regulated substances where compatibility can be an issue. Blended fuels exceeding those thresholds must demonstrate compatibility of the fuel with any components of the UST, including but not limited to the tank, piping, seals, gaskets, probes and transitional components. This will be accomplished through a listing of the components as compatible by a nationally recognized independent testing laboratory or through manufacturer’s certification of compatibility. Records demonstrating compatibility of all components of a UST system must be maintained as long as the UST contains blended fuels exceeding E10 or B20, or any other regulated substances where compatibility issues exist, for any future product changes and for substances already stored in USTs.

The second bullet reflects the position of US EPA since the issuance of the 2011 Compatibility Guideline, which now has the force of federal regulation. To avoid placing Illinois citizens in potential conflict with a federal rule that will soon be in effect in Illinois, OSFM will follow the federal standard for compatibility. This applies to both the threshold for proving compatibility (above E10 or B20) and for what proofs of compatibility will be required for blended fuels above E10 or B20, as well as for any other liquids stored in USTs where compatibility is not a given. Illinois state regulations when revised will match the federal standard as required.

The new federal UST regulations can be found at the link below, along with other information that can prove helpful to contactors, tank owners and operators:

<http://www.epa.gov/oust/fedlaws/revregs.html>