

Who needs operator training?

Under the Idaho Underground Storage Tank Act and the Rules Regulating Underground Storage Tank Systems, all owners and operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) in Idaho are required to successfully complete training in how to properly identify, operate, and maintain USTs. The goal of the UST training program is to properly train operators on UST equipment, operation, and maintenance so they can prevent and detect releases to the environment.

The UST rules have created three classes of operators that will need training:

- **Class A Operators**—Individuals having primary responsibility for on-site operation and maintenance of the UST system (usually an owner). They do not need to be on-site.
- **Class B Operators**—Individuals having daily on-site responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the UST systems (such as an operator/manager). They do not need to be on-site at all times.
- **Class C Operators**—Daily on-site individuals having primary responsibility for addressing emergencies presented by a spill or release from the UST system (such as a cashier/clerk).

In some instances, the same person may be the Class A, B, and C operator.

When is the training deadline?

All operators had to be trained by August 8, 2012.

After August 8, 2012, all new Class A and B operators must be trained within 30 days of being designated an operator. Class C operators must be trained before assuming responsibilities of responding to emergencies (typically upon hiring/orientation). A list of all trained operators and the date the training occurred must be kept at the facility.

For more information

Please contact your regional inspector with any questions or to receive additional information.

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UST on the Web

Underground Storage Tanks in Idaho:

www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/storage-tanks/underground-storage-tanks.aspx

Where can I find the online operator training program, TankHelper, and UST forms?

UST Owner/Operator Training:

www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/storage-tanks/ust-training-requirements.aspx



Printed on recycled paper. October 2011. Costs associated with this publication are available from the Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.

Underground Storage Tank Program

Operator Training



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How are operators designated?

The owner of an UST facility must designate the Class A and Class B operators and notify the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in writing within 30 days of the designation. The owner can use the Designated Operator form located on DEQ's website. The owner does not need to notify DEQ of Class C operators.

What do the Class A, B, and C operator trainings include?

- Class A and B operators will be trained in general UST system requirements so they can make informed decisions regarding compliance and ensure appropriate individuals are fulfilling operation, maintenance, and record-keeping requirements.
- Class C operators will be trained to respond to emergencies and alarms.

What if one person is the operator for many facilities?

If one person serves as the operator for multiple facilities, that person only needs to be trained once. Each facility will still receive a record-keeping binder and management plan.

What if I'm a certified operator in another state?

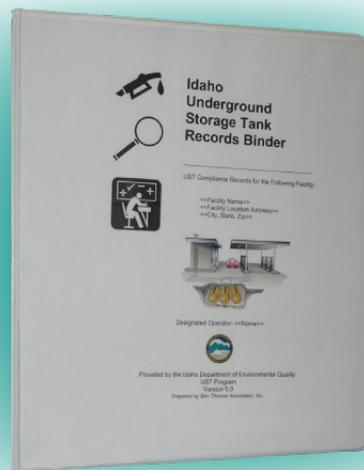
DEQ maintains a list of approved third-party operator training companies on its website.

Who conducts the training?

DEQ provides operator training at no cost. DEQ UST Specialists will train the Class A and Class B operators on-site at their facilities. If DEQ cannot provide the on-site training within 30 days of being designated an operator, then the operator can use the online TankHelper training program.

It is the responsibility of the tank owner, under the direction of a trained Class A or Class B operator, to provide training for Class C operators. Class C operator training will consist of the Class A or B operator explaining the emergency shut-off procedures for the facility, where the emergency shut-off switches are, where any alarms are located, and who to contact in the event of an alarm or emergency. The Class A or B operator will need to provide the Class C operator with an instruction sheet and emergency contact phone numbers before letting the Class C operator assume responsibility for responding to emergencies. The instruction and emergency contact sheet will be provided by DEQ and is on DEQ website.

During the on-site training, the operator will be supplied with a record-keeping binder and a management plan that outlines necessary compliance actions with an appropriate timeline for those actions.



Are there retraining requirements?

If DEQ UST Specialists identify violations during an inspection, the Class B operator must be retrained within 30 days, as required by the UST rules. The retraining will only consist of training the operator on the specifics of the violation(s). Retraining will be conducted by DEQ at the time of the inspection that results in any violation(s).

What happens in the case of personnel turnover?

New Class A or B operators must be trained within 30 days of being designated an operator and can be trained in one of three ways:

1. The new operator can use the online operator training program, TankHelper.
2. Depending on the location, a DEQ UST Specialist may be able to travel to the facility and train the new operator.
3. The new operator can use an approved third-party trainer. When using a third-party trainer, a copy of the training certificate must be sent to DEQ for verification. Keep the original in the record-keeping binder.

