



FACTS ABOUT: FUELING of BOATS and VESSELS at PUBLIC MARINAS

FUELING OF BOATS AND VESSELS AT PUBLIC MARINAS

The Department's Oil Control Program operates under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10, *Oil Pollution and Tank Management*. As part of COMAR, a number of industry standards are incorporated by reference. Two of these standards are through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): NFPA 30, *Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code*, which addresses the storage and handling of these liquids; and NFPA30A, *Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Garages*, which addresses motor fuel dispensing of these liquids at both public and private facilities.

Any "person" (defined in COMAR 26.10.01.01) having aboveground storage of oil at a marina in these quantities: 10,000-gallons or more of motor fuels; or 1,000-gallons or more of used oil; is required to have an Oil Operations Permit from MDE. Permit forms can be found at: <http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/Pages/landpermits.aspx>

A person having underground storage of any quantity of motor fuels or used oil shall register the underground storage tanks (USTs) with the Department and ensure all compliance requirements are met. Registration (*Tank Registration Form*) and compliance (*UST Systems Compliance Outline*) information can be found at:

<http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/usthome.aspx>.

Operating: without a permit; an unregistered UST; or, in violation of a permit or law; may result in the assessment of civil or administrative penalties.

There are a number of do's and don'ts with respect to a marina having motor fuel storage tanks and fueling boats and vessels. The storage requirements listed below are generally stated and, if you are the owner of a marina having fuel storage tanks, it is your responsibility to ensure each fuel storage system is in compliance with all laws and regulations. The "Authority having Jurisdiction" (AHJ) for marine fueling activities may be any one, or combination, of the following agencies: Maryland Department of the Environment, U.S. Coast Guard, State Fire Marshal, Local Fire Department or Fire Marshal, and the Local Zoning Authority.

STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Motor fuels shall be stored in Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved aboveground or underground storage tanks which are installed and operated in accordance with COMAR 26.10.



- An anti-siphon valve shall be required at the tank outlet to prevent gravity flow to the dispenser when the tank is at a higher elevation than the dispenser.
- Underground piping between the tank and the bulkhead shall be in compliance with the performance standards in COMAR 26.10.03.02.
- Underground piping may be used between the bulkhead and the dispenser if it is UL 971-listed and sleeved in rigid, corrosion-resistant pipe that meets a minimum 2 hour fire rating.
- A readily accessible shutoff valve shall be located on-shore near to the fueling pier and shall have a sign which easily identifies it.
- All electrical components shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 70, “National Electrical Code” (NEC).
- Emergency electrical shut-off switches shall be easily identified and located: on land within 10 feet of the bulkhead and near to the fueling pier; and on each fueling pier at least 20 feet away from the dispenser(s).
- Dispensers shall have containment sumps.
- Dispenser hose shall be listed for motor vehicle fueling and secured by a hose reel if the hose length is greater than 18 feet.
- Each fueling nozzle shall have a non-drip check valve and no hold-open latch device.

OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

An attendant or supervisor shall be on-duty when the facility is open for business and responsible for supervising, observing, or controlling the dispensing of liquids. This person shall:

- Be familiar with the dispensing system and emergency shutoff controls.
- Ensure the marine craft is properly moored and all connections are made.
- Prevent the filling of Class I liquids (gas/gasohol) into non-compliant portable containers.
- Be within 15 feet of the dispensing controls during the fueling operation and maintain a direct, clear, unobstructed view of both the vessel fuel filler neck and the emergency fuel shutoff control.

For underground motor fuel storage systems, UST owners shall designate, train, and certify UST operators. Additional information for Class A, B, and C operators can be found at:

http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/ustcertification_programs.aspx

Other important requirements pertaining to safe fueling operations are as follows:

- Fueling shall not take place at night except under well-lighted conditions.
- Smoking is prohibited on boats and vessels and in the dispensing area during fueling.
- All open flames and galley stoves shall be extinguished; engines, motors, fans, and bilge blowers shall be shut down; and all ports, windows, doors and hatches shall be closed.

- A sign with instructions printed in 2-inch red capital letters on a white background shall be conspicuously posted at the dispensing area with specific instructions for “Before Fueling”, “During Fueling”, and “After Fueling”.
- An owner or operator of a marine craft (boat or vessel) shall not fuel the vessel unless all of the following are met: (1) fuel tanks are properly vented and the fuel system is liquid and vapor tight with respect to the vessel’s interior; (2) all fuel systems are designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the vessel manufacturer’s specifications; (3) communication has been established with the attendant to confirm the vessel’s fuel capacity, the amount of fuel on-board, and the amount of fuel to be delivered, and (4) the electrical bonding and grounding systems have been maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications.
- When the fueling operation is complete, the fill cap shall be tightly secured; any spillage shall be cleaned up immediately; the marine craft shall remain open if Class I liquids were delivered; and bilge blowers shall be turned on and allowed to run for a minimum of 5 minutes. If bilge blowers are not available, a minimum of 10 minutes of ventilation shall be required.

COMPLAINTS OR SPILLS

If you have a concern or a complaint, call the MDE Oil Control Program at 410-537-3442 during regular business hours. To report oil spills, contact the MDE Emergency Response Division any time day or night at 1-866-633-4686.

This fact sheet has been provided for informational purposes. This document is not intended nor should it be interpreted to be a regulation, as defined in State Government Article, Section 10-101, Annotated Code of Maryland. The MDE encourages you to read and understand the regulations found in Code of Maryland Regulations 26.10, “Oil Pollution and Tank Management”, and the National Fire Protection Association’s Codes and Standards for flammable and combustible liquids fueling operations.