



April 20, 2020

To: All Maryland Certified Underground Storage Tank System Technicians, Removers, and Inspectors

Maryland Underground Storage Tank System Certifications During the COVID-19 State of Emergency

On March 12, 2020, Governor Hogan issued an Executive Order extending the expiration dates of certain licenses, permits, registrations, and other governmental authorizations that expire during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency and would be renewable during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency under applicable laws and regulations.

If you currently hold a underground storage tank (UST) system technician, remover, or inspector certification issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment's Oil Control Program (OCP) that expires on or after Thursday March 12, 2020, the expiration date will be extended to the thirtieth (30th) day after the state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded. A renewal application must be submitted to MDE within thirty (30) days after the termination of the state of emergency and rescission of the catastrophic health emergency.

UST system owners and operators must continue to use Maryland-certified UST system technician, remover, or inspector with current certifications or certifications that expired on or after March 12, 2020 (as discussed above). Should any activity requiring the presence of a Maryland-certified UST system technician, remover, or inspector be performed during this state of emergency by an individual(s) with a certification that expired prior to March 12, 2020, MDE may take enforcement action.

This memorandum does not create any exceptions to the Executive Orders issued by Governor Hogan or excuse the failure to comply with any UST system certification or other requirement, or generally relieve Maryland-certified UST system technicians, removers, or inspectors from other regulatory requirements, including local and federal laws. It is the responsibility of a business, organization or facility to determine whether it is considered essential and can be conducting work during the state of emergency. For further information, please find the Governor's Executive Orders at this web page: <https://governor.maryland.gov/category/executive-orders/>.

This guidance is intended to only apply until the COVID-19 state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded. You should continue to monitor the MDE website for updated information regarding UST systems during this unprecedented time. <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Pages/index.aspx>.