

Underground Storage Tank Operator Certification Program Minimum Qualifications

As required by Code of Maryland Regulations 26.10.16.05 the Maryland Department of the Environment shall establish and make available the minimum requirements for any UST operator certification program. A Certification Program means an informational course, class, or set of training instructions approved by the Department for educating and certifying a Class A, B, or C operator to comply with Maryland UST Regulations.

Based on the requirements set forth in COMAR 26.10.16 owners of underground storage tank facilities are to designate individuals to serve as Class A, B, and C operator(s) for each facility by August 8, 2012. Owners of facilities that must comply include the owners of facilities that store, motor fuel, used oil and hazardous substances in underground storage tank (UST) systems as well as facilities that have bulk storage or operate emergency generators USTs.

The purpose of operator training is to ensure that properly certified individuals are available to respond to operational and equipment alarms, warnings or alerts. Are capable to detect and report storage system emergencies. To ensure that suspected releases, unusual operating conditions, and equipment failures are addressed and to make certain the facility is operated in a manner that complies with Maryland and federal storage tank laws and regulations.

Certification Programs

For a certification program to be considered for approval by MDE the minimum requirements are:

Class A

A Class A certification program must train and/or ensure the knowledge of the Class A operator in their primary responsibilities associated with the operation and maintenance of a UST system. This includes managing resources and personnel who will maintain compliance with regulatory requirements. To achieve a level of proficiency, an individual must have a general knowledge of UST requirements as set forth in 40 CFR 280, and Code of Maryland Regulations 26.10.02 – 26.10.16. Specific training and testing topics must include:

- Spill prevention and reporting
- Overfill prevention
- Release detection

- Corrosion protection as it is related to the tank systems involved
- Emergency response actions
- Product and equipment compatibility
- Financial responsibility
- Maryland UST registration requirements
- Temporary and permanent closure requirements
- Operator training and certification
- Recordkeeping requirements.

Class B

A Class B certification program must train and/or ensure the knowledge of the Class B operator on how to implement the applicable UST regulatory requirements as set forth in 40 CFR 280, and Code of Maryland Regulations 26.10.02 – 26.10.16. Training and testing for the Class B operator must include:

- How to verify testing of release detection methods and release prevention equipment
- The inspection of spill prevention, overfill prevention and corrosion protection equipment for proper operation
- Performance of UST equipment system tests
- Evaluation of compliance with UST equipment manufacturers and third party performance standards
- Emergency response and reporting procedures
- Records completion and retention to demonstrate compliance
- Class C operator training requirements.

Class C

A Class C operator must be trained to properly monitor dispensing of regulated substance. The Class C training shall also include how to take action in response to emergencies (such as, situations posing an immediate danger or threat to the public or to the environment) or alarms caused by spills or releases from an underground storage system.

Testing

In most cases at the conclusion of a certification program a written examination must be given to determine if the person has the necessary knowledge and skills to be considered competent to operate the USTs. There are exemptions to this testing requirement that can be found in COMAR 26.10.16.06.

Approval

Before a program can be accepted in Maryland, the Department shall review and approve certification program and provide written acceptance of the program. The Department will maintain a list of approved certification programs and make that list available to UST owners.