



UST System Technician / Remover / Inspector Certification Program

What You Need to Know

The following information is provided to describe the initial and renewal certification requirements for becoming a Maryland Certified Underground Storage Tank (UST) System Technician, Remover, Inspector, and Heating Oil Technician.

The *Underground Storage Tank Technician, Remover, and Inspector Certification Application (Application)* and other important information may be obtained from the Oil Control Program (OCP) UST Certification Programs webpage:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Pages/ustcertification_programs.aspx

Requirements to Use Certified Individuals

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.02.03D and 26.10.06 require the following:

- A certified UST System Technician shall be present on-site during UST system installation, upgrade, or repair work in Maryland.
- A certified UST System Technician or Remover shall be present and continuously on-site during the closure or change-in-service of a regulated UST system, an underground farm tank, an underground residential tank, an underground residential heating oil tank, or the underground piping associated with a storage tank.
- A certified UST System Inspector is authorized to complete UST System Compliance Inspections in accordance with COMAR 26.10.03.10.
- A certified Heating Oil Technician may only install, upgrade, repair, and close a UST system storing heating oil for consumptive use and with a capacity of 2,000 gallons or less.

Initial Certifications

First time certification requires an individual to submit a completed *Application* (discussed below) at least 30 days prior to registering to take a MDE certification test, and to pass a MDE certification test with a score of 90 percent or better (discussed below).

Once the certification requirements are fulfilled, an individual will receive a Maryland UST System Technician, Remover, Inspector, or Heating Oil Technician Card.

Each Certification Card has an expiration date, which is 2 years from the original issue date.

Any certified individual must make their Certification Card available to an MDE representative upon request.



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Initial Technician Certification Requirements

- The UST System Technician Certification and the Heating Oil Technician Certification require an applicant and employer to:
 - Certify the applicant has at least 2 years of UST system installation experience within the last 36 months with a company or organization that installs UST systems, and
 - Provide MDE with verifiable proof of direct involvement in a minimum of six separate UST system installations, repairs, upgrades, or closures, where not more than three UST system closure events may be counted towards the six needed.
- The following requested information must be entered into the appropriate space on the table in the *Application* for each site experience.
 - MDE Facility ID or name of facility, the complete address, point of contact and telephone number, the date the work was performed, and a brief description of work performed.
- The *Application* must be signed and dated by the applicant and employer.

Initial Remover Certification Requirements

- The Remover Certification requires an applicant and employer to:
 - Provide MDE with verifiable proof of direct involvement in a minimum of six separate UST system closure events within the last 36 months with a company or organization that closes UST systems.
- The following requested information must be entered into the appropriate space on the table in the *Application* for each site experience.
 - MDE Facility ID or name of facility, the complete address, point of contact and telephone number, the date the work was performed, and a brief description of work performed.
- The *Application* must be signed and dated by the applicant and employer.

Initial Inspector Certification Requirements

- The Inspector Certification requires an applicant and employer to provide MDE with verifiable proof of:
 - Attending one or more nationally recognized or MDE approved training courses pertaining to UST system design, installation, operation, testing, or inspection; and
 - The completion of a UST System Inspector Orientation course provided by MDE.



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- The UST System Inspector Orientation Course schedule can be found on the UST Certification Programs webpage (link above) under the heading UST System Inspector Orientation Course.
- The *Application* must be signed and dated by the applicant and employer.

Renewal Certifications

There are two options available for renewing a certification: Option A – Retest; and Option B – Continuing Education. In either case, a completed *Application* must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current certification.

Once the renewed certification requirements are fulfilled, an individual will receive a new Certification Card, which is valid for 2 years from the original issue date.

Any certified individual must make their Certification Card available to an MDE representative upon request.

Option A – Retest

Technician

- At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current certification, submit a completed *Application* with the experience requirements indicated under the *Initial Technician Certifications Requirements* section.
- Pass a certification test by scoring 90 percent or better.

Remover

- At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current certification, submit a completed *Application* with the experience requirements indicated under the *Initial Remover Certifications Requirements* section.
- Pass a certification test by scoring 90 percent or better.

Inspector

- At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current certification, submit a completed *Application* with the documentation of the completion of a UST System Inspector Orientation course provided by MDE.
- Pass a certification test by scoring 90 percent or better.



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Option B – Continuing Education

- This option **CANNOT be used if the current Certification has expired.**
- An individual must complete all requirements listed under the specific certification type for Option B.
- All continuing education documentation must be included with the signed and dated *Application* and submitted to:

Maryland Department of the Environment
Oil Control Program / Certification Section
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore Maryland
21230-1719

Remover or Technician

- At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current certification, submit a completed *Application* with verifiable proof of the following experience requirements within the last 2 years:
 - Attendance and completion of a MDE Certified UST Course listed under the heading “MDE Certified UST Course Schedules” on the UST Certification Programs webpage.
 - Proof-of-attendance may be used one time only for each course taken.
 - Direct involvement in six or more UST system installations, repairs, upgrades, or closures.

Inspector

- At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the current certification, submit a completed *Application* with verifiable proof of the following experience requirements within the last 2 years:
 - Attendance and completion of the following courses:
 - A MDE approved UST system inspector refresher course. (All approved refresher courses are listed on the UST Certification Programs webpage.); and
 - A MDE Workshop or UST System Inspector Orientation Course.
 - Completion of UST System Compliance Inspections at a minimum of 10 regulated substance storage facilities .



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Certification Testing

Testing for all UST System Technician, Remover, Inspector, or Heating Oil Technician certifications (initial and renewals) is offered at MDE's main office, the second Tuesday of each month, and beginning promptly at 1:00 pm.

Registration and Test Procedure

- To register to take a test, you must:
 - Submit your completed *Application* 30 days in advance of registering to take a certification test; and
 - Call one week in advance to register for a test date: 410-537-3442 (or 800-633-6101, ext. 3442).
- If you have not registered for the test or provided all required information to MDE in advance, you will not be allowed to take the test.
- A valid government issued photo ID is required on the day of the test to sit for the exam.
- A maximum of 3 hours is allowed to complete the test.
- The test is not counted towards continuing education time.

Scoring

- An individual must score 90 percent or better to pass the test.
- If an individual scores less than 90 percent on any certification test, they may register to retest within 90 days without reapplying.
- If an individual does not achieve a passing score within 90 days, they must submit a new application for certification.

Study Materials

- Topics needed to prepare for the UST Inspector certification exam are covered in COMAR 26.10.02—.12 and 26.10.16, MDE's *UST System Compliance Inspection Report*, and MDE's *Certified UST System Inspector Reference Handbook*.
- Materials needed to prepare for the UST System Technician or Remover certification exams include American Petroleum Institute (API) 1604 and 1615, Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI) RP-100, tank manufacturer's instructions, and Steel Tank Institute Installation instructions.
- Training courses to help prepare an individual for a test are available and listed on the UST Certification Programs webpage.



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

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Online Search Tool

MDE maintains an online search tool where the current status of an individual certification can be looked up. It is accessible through the following link on the UST Certification Programs webpage:

<https://mes-mde.mde.state.md.us/certificationsearch/search.aspx>

Questions

Please contact Melissa Rockey, Certification Section Head, at 410-537-3938 or by email at melissa.rockey@maryland.gov with any questions.

To report oil spills, releases, or discharges please call 1-866-633-4686, available 24 hours a day.

Limitations

This fact sheet has been provided for informational purposes. This document is not intended to be, nor should it be interpreted as, a regulation as defined in § 10-101, State Government Article. MDE encourages you to read and understand the regulations that govern the operation of aboveground and underground storage systems found in COMAR 26.10. – Oil Pollution Control and Storage Tank Management.