



Underground Storage Tank (UST) Operator Training Program Requirements

What You Need to Know

As required by Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.16.06, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) shall review and approve UST system operator training programs and make a list of approved training programs available.

A training program is an informational course, class, or set of training instructions approved by MDE for educating and certifying a Class A operator, Class B operator, or Class C operator to comply with Maryland's UST system regulations.

In accordance with COMAR 26.10.16, owners and operators of UST systems shall designate one or more individuals to serve as a Class A operator, a Class B operator, and a Class C operator(s) for each regulated substance storage facility. Further, owners and operators shall ensure each designated operator is trained and certified in accordance with COMAR 26.10.16.

Generally, the purpose of operator training is to ensure that properly certified individuals can:

- Respond to operational or equipment alarms, warnings, or alert mechanisms;
- Implement the emergency shutoff process;
- Respond to a suspected or confirmed spill, release, or discharge, unusual operating conditions, emergencies, and equipment failures; and
- Notify MDE of a spill, release, or discharge in accordance with COMAR 26.10.01.05 and 26.10.08.01—.04.

Operator Training Programs

For an operator training program to be considered for approval by MDE, the company must:

- Ensure the training program meets the minimum requirements established in COMAR 26.10.16.05, and listed below, for each operator class that the program covers;
- Ensure the certification requirements in COMAR 26.10.16.07, and listed below, are met;
- Submit a complete copy of the training program materials, including a program outline, presentation materials, and testing materials for each operator training class; and
- Demonstrate how the record keeping requirements of COMAR 26.10.16.06C(5) will be met, which include the following training records:
 - Date and location of training;
 - Names of trainers providing training;
 - Names of trainees in attendance;



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- Names of trainees certified as a Class A, a Class B, and a Class C operator; and
- A copy of the dated certificate provided to each trainee that successfully completed the training program.

Class A Operator Training Requirements

A Class A operator training program must, at a minimum, provide general knowledge and teach a Class A operator about the purpose, methods, and functions of:

- Spill and overfill prevention;
- Release detection;
- Corrosion protection;
- Emergency response;
- Product and equipment compatibility and demonstration of compatibility;
- Financial responsibility;
- Notification and UST system registration;
- The temporary and permanent closure and change-in-service of a UST system;
- Reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and inspections;
- Environmental and regulatory consequences of releases; and
- Training requirements for Class B operators and Class C operators.

At a minimum, the training program must evaluate a Class A operator to determine if the individual has the knowledge and skills in accordance with the list above to:

- Make informed decisions regarding regulatory compliance; and
- Determine whether appropriate individuals are fulfilling the operation, maintenance, testing, and recordkeeping requirements for UST systems.

Class B Operator Training Requirements

A Class B operator training program must, at a minimum, cover either:

- General requirements that encompass all regulatory requirements and typical equipment used at a regulated substance storage facility; or



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- Site-specific requirements that address only the regulatory requirements and equipment specific to a regulated substance storage facility for which the Class B operator has been designated.

At a minimum, the training program for a Class B operator must teach the Class B operator about the purpose, methods, and functions of:

- Operation and maintenance;
- Spill and overflow prevention;
- Release detection and related reporting;
- Corrosion protection;
- Emergency response;
- Product and equipment compatibility and demonstration of compatibility;
- Reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and inspections;
- Environmental and regulatory consequences of releases; and
- Training requirements for Class C operators.

At a minimum, the training program must evaluate a Class B operator to determine if the individual has the knowledge and skills in accordance with the above lists to implement applicable UST regulatory requirements in the field on:

- The components of a typical UST system; or
- The site-specific equipment used at a regulated substance storage facility for which the Class B operator has been designated.

Class C Operator Training Requirements

A certified Class A operator or a certified Class B operator designated for a regulated substance storage facility shall train each individual designated as a Class C operator for the same regulated substance storage facility. At a minimum, the training program for a Class C operator:

- Teaches the Class C operator to take appropriate action, including notifying appropriate authorities, in response to emergencies or alarms caused by spills, releases, and discharges resulting from the operation of a UST system; and
- Is specific to a regulated substance storage facility for which the individual has been designated, and the training program is not valid for another regulated substance storage facility.



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At a minimum, the training program evaluates a Class C operator to determine if the individual has the knowledge and skills in accordance with the two bullets listed above.

Certification Requirements

Class A Operators and Class B Operators – Successful completion of a training program for a Class A operator or Class B operator shall include:

- 100 percent attendance during the training program;
- A score of 80 percent or better on a written competency test of the information presented; and
- The trainer provided a dated certificate upon successful completion of the training.

Alternatively, with the approval of MDE, a Class A operator and/or a Class B operator may be trained at the regulated substance storage facility provided all the above Class A operator and/or Class B operator requirements are covered and evaluated.

Class C Operators – A certified Class A operator or a certified Class B operator designated for a regulated substance storage facility shall train and certify an individual to be a Class C operator for that regulated substance storage facility by:

- Training and evaluating the individual in accordance with the Class C Operator Training Requirements List above;
- Having the individual demonstrate an understanding of the written instructions for the facility; and
- Upon successful completion of the training, completing and signing the *Maryland Class C Underground Storage Tank Operator Facility Checklist* for the facility.

In addition to the above minimum certification requirements, an individual designated to serve as a Class C operator may attend a general training program intended for Class C operators.

The *Maryland Class C Underground Storage Tank Operator Facility Checklist* is available at:

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/OilControl/Documents/MD_Class_C_Form_Revised_9.29.22_2pgs.pdf

Limitations

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 Section 10-101, State Government Article. The MDE encourages you to read and understand the regulations that govern the operation of underground storage systems found in COMAR 26.10 “Oil Pollution Control and Storage Tank Management.”