

Vermont's Above Ground Storage Tank Rules *Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*

Who enforces these rules?

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Enforcement Division.

What is required for new tank installations?

All new tank installations must have:

- a shutoff valve within 12 inches of the fuel outlet;
- a vent line that terminates outside the building;
- a vent alarm or “whistle” that terminates near the fill pipe;
- a fill pipe and vent that are the same size and have a minimum diameter size of 1-1/4 inches;
- a fill pipe and vent pipe with a waterproof and insect proof cap;
- a gauging device;
- protective sleeves for oil lines installed below grade;
- separate fill pipes, vent and alarms (if there is more than one AST).

Do new tanks have to be double walled?

No. The regulations allow single wall tanks not less than 12 gauge in thickness.

Are there any specific requirements for outdoor tanks?

Yes. Outdoor tanks must be protected from the elements. Outdoor tanks are required to have a shelter that protects it from falling snow and ice and, when possible, should be installed on the gable end of the building.

Do tanks have to be set on a concrete pad?

Yes. All tanks are required to be on a stable foundation such as a concrete pad to prevent the tank from tipping over. All four legs need to be on the same solid foundation, concrete blocks are not allowed.

What other requirements are there for new tank installations?

The tank installer must complete the **AST Inspection Checklist** and review the guidelines with the tank owner.

Are there requirements for removing tank systems?

Yes. Any tank that is out-of-service for more than one year must be removed. All piping must be removed as well.

Can I pump fuel from the old tank into the new tank?

The regulations do not allow this, unless the old tank is in poor condition, is leaking or likely to be leaking.

Are fuel dealers required to inspect existing tanks?

According to the regulations, fuel dealers should inspect a tank prior to the initial delivery using the AST Inspection Checklist. The state of Vermont does not intend to collect this information or audit to dealers to determine if these inspections are taking place. However, the regulations state that any problems identified in the inspection which indicate a potential for a fuel release must be corrected before the fuel delivery.

Can I red tag a non-compliant tank?

Yes. If you determine that a tank is unsafe and non-compliant you can red-tag a tank in the same way a heating service technician can “red tag” a furnace. Red tagging a tank will indicate that the tank is out of compliance and that the fuel dealer declined to fill the tank due to the environmental risk.

Who is responsible for making sure the tank is in compliance?

The tank owner. If a fuel dealer completes an AST Inspection Checklist and the consumer refuses to bring their tank into compliance, the **fuel dealer is not responsible**. However, the regulations say that the fuel dealer must not deliver if there is a potential for a fuel release during the delivery, such as a non working vent alarm.

*VFDA has red tags available, as well as customer notification forms,
the AST Inspection Checklist, and the complete AST regulations.*

Contact VFDA or visit us at vermontfuel.com/ast.html to learn more.