



Underground Storage Systems Operator Training Reciprocity Policy

Trained Facility Operators

Based on the requirements set forth in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.16 owners of underground storage tank facilities are to designate individuals to serve as Class A, Class B, and Class 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 the trained and certified individuals know how to:

- Respond to operational and equipment alarms, warnings, or alerts;
- Implement the emergency shutoff process;
- Respond to a suspected or confirmed release, unusual operating conditions, emergencies, and equipment failures; and
- To notify the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) of a release.

Additionally, the Class A, Class B, and Class C Operator(s) is trained to ensure the facility is operated in a manner that complies with Maryland and federal storage tank laws and regulations. A copy of COMAR can be found on the MDE Oil Control Program UST Certification Program's website at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Documents/UST%20Operator%20Training%20Regulations%207%20pgs.pdf>

Class A Operator

An individual with the primary responsibility for on-site operation and maintenance of the UST system. They do not need to be on the site. Training and testing for the Class A Operator 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
- Train the Class C operator



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Class B Operator

An individual with daily on-site responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the UST systems. They may not always be on-site. 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
- Release detection reporting requirements
- Performance of UST equipment system tests
- Evaluation of compliance with UST equipment manufacturers and third-party performance standards
- Emergency response and reporting procedures
- Maintain and make available records required to demonstrate compliance
- Train the Class C Operator

Class C Operator

An individual with the knowledge and skills to take appropriate actions (including notifying relevant authorities) in response to emergencies or alarms caused by spills, discharges, or releases from the UST system. A Class C Operator must be trained by the designated facility Class A or B Operator at the specific Maryland facility by completing and signing the Maryland Class C Underground Storage Tank Operator Facility Checklist available on the MDE website at

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Documents/MD_ClassC_Form_Revised_6.9.17_1pg.pdf

Reciprocity Approval Process

MDE may allow Class A or Class B Operator certifications from another state to satisfy the UST operator training requirements. Individuals seeking reciprocity must review the [Underground Storage Tank Compliance Outline](#), the [Underground Storage Tank Compliance Testing Schedule Fact Sheet](#), and all Maryland specific regulations located in COMAR 26.10.02 — .11 and .16 related to UST compliance. Once the individual seeking reciprocity has reviewed and understands the Maryland specific regulations, they must complete, sign, date, and submit the *UST Operator Training Reciprocity Request Form*. The form is located at

https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/OilControl/Documents/UST_Operator_Training_Reciprocity_Request_Form_1.20.21_2pgs.pdf.



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Underground Storage Systems Operator Training Reciprocity Policy

Along with the completed form, the individual seeking reciprocity must attach the Class A and/or Class B Operator certificate received from the other state, and submit both to MDE as instructed on the form.

Once the application is approved, the Trained Operator will receive a reciprocity approval letter from MDE that must be maintained on file at the facility. The *UST Operator Training Reciprocity Request Form* can be used to add, remove, or change the designated Class A or Class B Operator.

Sanctions

If MDE determines a regulated substance storage facility is not in compliance with COMAR 26.10.02 — .11 and .16, then MDE may revoke the approved reciprocity and require the Class A and/or Class B Operator to obtain operator training through an approved Maryland operator training vendor.

More Information

For more information, you may contact the Maryland Department of the Environment's Oil Control Program at 410-537-3442 or visit our website at http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/OilControl/Pages/ustcertification_programs.aspx.