

UNDERSTANDING THE CERTIFICATION CATEGORIES

The Pennsylvania Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act (Act 32 of 1989 as amended) requires anyone conducting regulated tank handling and inspection activities to be certified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The regulations (25 Pa. Code Chapter 245) implementing the certification program establish 15 different certification categories: 12 installer categories and three inspector categories. The categories involve tank system installations and modifications, tank removals, mechanical activities, civil activities, tightness testing, tank lining activities, and inspection activities.

Tank owners need to know which activities a person is certified to conduct before employing his or her services. For example, a person certified only to conduct an underground tank removal cannot perform a tank installation.

DEP's certification program is administered by the Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields, Division of Storage Tanks, P.O. Box 8762, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8762, 800-42-TANKS (in PA) or 717-772-5599, or through the PA AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf).

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CATEGORIES

UMX - Underground storage tank system installation and modification

Installation of underground storage tanks and storage tank systems includes but is not limited to: the tank and all associated ancillary equipment, appurtenances, corrosion protection systems, structural components, and foundations. The UMX category also includes conducting pre-installation air pressure tests for underground storage tank systems. Tank materials must conform to current local, state, and industry requirements, and tank handling should be conducted in accordance with recommended practices and codes.

Modifications include upgrading, repairing, refurbishing, or restoring any of the mechanical equipment, appurtenances, or structural components involved in underground storage tanks and underground storage tank systems. This category may not perform tank lining activities.

UMI - Underground storage tank system minor modification

Limited to the performance of minor modification activities on underground storage tanks and storage tank systems which includes activities to upgrade, repair, refurbish or restore all or part of an existing underground storage tank or underground storage tank system that do not alter the design of that storage tank or storage tank system, but which may affect the integrity of that storage tank system.

UMR - Underground storage tank system removal from service

Removal activities include but are not limited to: preparing the tank for temporary or permanent closure; dismantling the storage tank system for removal; ensuring proper handling of waste material; purging or inerting the tank of volatile vapors; and overseeing tank cleaning activities.

UTT - Underground storage tank system tightness testing

This category includes activities involved with conducting and interpreting the results of volumetric and non-volumetric tests on underground storage tank systems. DEP certification and current, DEP-approved manufacturer's training are required to conduct tightness testing activities. The DEP UTT certification is limited to the specific method of testing included in the equipment manufacturer's certification.

IUM - Underground storage tank systems and underground storage tank facility inspection

The inspection activities involve but are not limited to addressing: requirements for a current registration certificate; standards for underground storage tank design, installation, and operation; requirements for technical standards for release detection, corrosion protection, and spill and overfill protection; requirements for record keeping; and requirements for facility safety measures.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PERIODIC TESTING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Certifications for periodic testing required under 25 Pa. Code Chapter 245, § 245.437 must be conducted by a DEP-certified individual. Individuals holding UMX, UMI, IUM, and UTT certification may conduct containment sump and spill prevention equipment testing and release detection equipment testing. Individuals holding UMX and UMI certification may also conduct overfill prevention equipment evaluations.

ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK CATEGORIES

AMMX - Aboveground manufactured metallic storage tank installation and modification

AMNX - Aboveground nonmetallic storage tank installation and modification

Installation activities for the above categories include, but are not limited to: the aboveground storage tank and all associated ancillary equipment, appurtenances, and corrosion protection systems. The categories also cover foundations and structural components when they are designed by an engineer qualified in civil construction, or when installing small aboveground UL labeled aboveground storage tanks with manufacturer-installed self-containment or diking systems.

Modification activities involve, but are not limited to: removing and replacing material to maintain aboveground storage tank integrity (e.g., patches, plates); adding manways or nozzles to existing aboveground storage tanks; repairing flaws (tears, gouges) by grinding, gouging, or welding; increasing or decreasing shell height; installing "hot taps"; replacing or repairing tank floors and roofs; and modifying system components.

AFMX - Aboveground field constructed metallic storage tank installation, modification, and removal from service

Installation activities involve, but are not limited to: constructing, reconstructing, or erecting and/or placing an aboveground storage tank and installing a corrosion protection system in accordance with applicable drawings, specifications, standards, codes, manufacturer's recommended practices, fire safety, and OSHA regulations.

Modification activities involve, but are not limited to: removing and replacing material to maintain tank integrity (e.g., patches, plates); adding manways or nozzles to existing tanks; repairing flaws (tears, gouges) by grinding, gouging, or welding; increasing or decreasing shell height; installing "hot taps"; replacing or repairing tank floors and roofs; and modifying system components. Modifications to the corrosion protection system include, but are not limited to adding anodes, replacing rectifiers, restoring electrical current flow, and repairing wire connections. An individual with AFMX certification may also perform modifications on tank components of manufactured aboveground tank systems.

Removal activities are limited to aboveground field constructed metallic storage tank systems and are usually associated with reconstruction projects.

This category does not include foundations and dike fields but may include secondary containment on certain types of double-bottom tank systems.

AMR - Aboveground manufactured storage tank system removal from service

AFR - Aboveground field constructed and manufactured aboveground storage tank system removal from service

The removal activities involve, but are not limited to: preparing the tank for temporary or permanent closure or change-in-service; purging or inerting the tank and preparing it for cleaning; dismantling the tank system for removal; and ensuring proper removal or closure in place.

AMEX - Aboveground storage tank system mechanical installation, modification, and removal

Installation and removal of tank-related mechanical equipment, including, but not limited to: valves; piping; foam system piping; pumps; corrosion protection systems; release detection systems; and spill and overfill prevention systems that are components of an aboveground storage tank system.

Modification activities include upgrading, repairing, refurbishing, or restoring any of the mechanical equipment of an aboveground storage tank system or storage tank facility. Modifications are always performed on existing tank systems.

ACVL - Aboveground storage tank-civil

Installation of tank-related structural components including, but not limited to: foundations; dike walls; containment structures; field grading; above and below grade vaults; pipe and pump supports; corrosion protection systems; and drainage.

Modification activities include upgrading, repairing, refurbishing, or restoring any of the structural components referenced in the above paragraph.

IAM - Aboveground manufactured storage tank system inspection

IAF - Aboveground field constructed and aboveground manufactured storage tank system inspection

The inspection activities involve, but are not limited to: checking the foundation; collecting tank history information; inspecting the condition of the tank shell; inspecting external floating roofs; inspecting internal floating roofs; inspecting seals; inspecting dike or dike area; checking thickness and condition of nozzles and

manways; and checking thickness and condition of appurtenances (e.g., stairs, paint, insulation) and determining conformation to industry codes and design standards.

TANK LINING

TL - Storage tank liner

This category involves, but is not limited to: activities in the installation or modification of internal liners for underground and aboveground storage tank systems, and the evaluation of underground storage tank linings. This includes determining the need for tank bottom interior lining; preparing surface per liner manufacturer's and design engineer's instructions; and installing, testing, and repairing tank lining. NOTE: Underground storage tanks may no longer be lined, relined, or repaired for the purpose of corrosion protection, and lining material must be compatible with the substance stored.

For more information, visit www.dep.pa.gov, Businesses > Land > Storage Tanks.