

## What is Operator Training?

The Federal Energy Policy Act enacted by Congress in 2005 mandated training for all UST system operators. The Division of Waste Management (DWM) UST Section used guidelines developed by the US EPA to develop a program that will train UST operators in accordance with the federal requirements.

In North Carolina, there will be two types of operators who must receive training: a Designated Operator (Class A/B) and a Class C Operator.

## What is a “Designated Operator”?

Each UST owner must identify a Designated Operator for each UST facility before that facility's next compliance inspection.

The Designated Operator must meet the following criteria:

1. Responsible for the day-to-day aspects of operating and maintaining the UST system, and recordkeeping for the UST facility.
2. Has a general knowledge of the UST compliance requirements listed in 15A NCAC 2N, *Criteria and Standards Applicable to Underground Storage Tanks*.
3. Is **not** a third party contractor.
4. Is an employee of the entity operating the USTs at that facility.

## What is a “Class C Operator”?

The Class C Operator is defined by the following criteria:

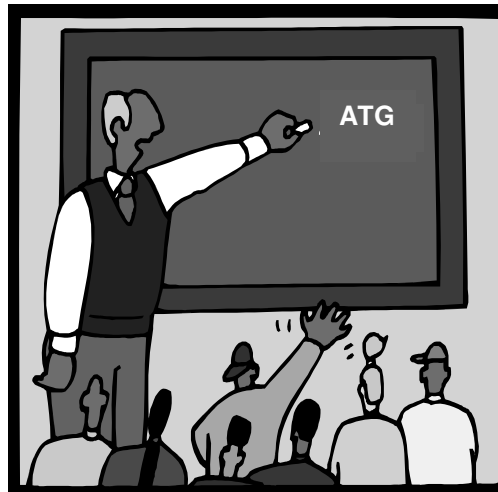
1. Controls or monitors fuel sale or dispensing operations.
2. Provides immediate response to alarms and releases.
3. Must be present during all hours of UST system operation.

If a facility is unmanned, an automated notification system must be in place that will immediately alert the Class C Operator of an emergency or alarm at the facility at any time

## What topics are included in Operator Training?

The training for the Designated Operator will cover the topics of: spill prevention, overflow control, leak detection, corrosion protection, emergency response, compatibility, financial responsibility, suspected releases, release reporting, Class C Operator training requirements, UST system components, and UST reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

The training for the Class C Operator will include actions required to respond to emergencies and to alarms indicating spills or releases from the UST system(s).



## How will the Designated Operator complete Operator Training?

Training the Designated Operator in accordance with the US EPA requirements begins at the UST facility. An inspector will call the UST owner to schedule a compliance inspection. The owner must ensure that the Designated Operator is present at the facility for that inspection.

The Designated Operator will have an opportunity to be trained on-site during the compliance inspection **only if** the facility is in compliance following the inspection. To complete the on-site training, the Designated Operator will be given a written assessment, or test, called the Operator Regulatory Knowledge Assessment (ORKA).

If the facility is **not** in compliance at the compliance inspection, then a notice will be sent to the UST owner following the inspection directing the Designated Operator to sign up for Tank School.

By August 2012, all facilities with UST systems permitted through the Division of Waste Management must have trained Designated and Class C Operators.

## What is the ORKA?

The Operator Regulatory Knowledge Assessment, or ORKA, is a written assessment, or test, that the Designated Operator may complete during the compliance inspection. If the operator scores a 75% or better on the ORKA, and if the facility is in compliance, then that facility would meet the US EPA requirements to have a Trained Operator.

The ORKA is given to the Designated Operator at the start of the inspection. The ORKA should be completed as the Designated Operator accompanies the inspector through the inspection process. The information needed to complete the ORKA will only be discussed by the inspector during the inspection process.

At the end of the inspection, the inspector will collect the ORKA for grading at a later time. Once the assessment is graded, the owner and Designated Operator will be notified of the results. If the facility passes the inspection and the Designated Operator passes the ORKA, the owner and Designated Operator will receive a "Trained Operator Certification" document as written verification.

If the Designated Operator fails the ORKA, then a notice will be sent to the UST owner following the inspection directing the Designated Operator to sign up for Tank School.

### **What is Tank School?**

Tank School is a free, day-long class and exam that trains Designated Operators in accordance with the US EPA requirements for operating and maintaining UST systems. The class will be held regularly at the UST Section central office located at 2728 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604.

Enrollment instructions will be mailed to the UST owner, if the Designated Operator was not trained during the compliance inspection. If the operator scores a 75% or better on the assessment given at Tank School, then that facility would meet the US EPA requirements to have a Trained Operator. The owner and Designated

Operator would receive a "Trained Operator Certification" document as written verification.

### **How will the Class C Operator complete Operator Training?**

Class C Operators are trained by the Designated Operator using an information packet issued to all tank owners by DWM. The packet includes a UST-26 form to record training dates and signatures verifying that training was completed. The form should be available for a UST inspector to review at the next compliance inspection.

### **What are the requirements after Operator Training has been completed?**

Once the Designated Operator has been trained in accordance with the US EPA requirements and received a "Trained Operator Certification" for a facility, no further training is required for that particular facility unless:

1. A new Designated Operator is appointed for that facility, or
2. The facility is out of compliance at the next compliance inspection.

In either case above, the Designated Operator would be required to attend Tank School.

Class C Operators should be trained before assuming any responsibilities for monitoring or controlling fuel dispensing from UST systems.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact the UST Section Central Office at (919) 733-8486 or visit our web site at: [http://www.wastenotnc.org/ust/ust\\_main.html](http://www.wastenotnc.org/ust/ust_main.html)



XXX copies of this public document were printed on 100% recycled paper at a cost of \$XX.XX0 or \$X.XXX per copy. February 2010

# **Underground Storage Tank Operator Training Requirements**



**N.C. Department of  
Environment and Natural  
Resources**

**Division of Waste Management  
UST Section**

