

Operator Training in Montana - Minimum Training Requirements and Training Options

As an UST system owner or operator, you have a vital role to play in protecting public health, the environment, and your economic investment. Therefore, determining what UST equipment you have at your facility, maintaining all applicable records, and identifying and understanding the operation and maintenance procedures you need to follow are critical to your success as an owner or operator.

In August of 2005 Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. One part of the Energy Act requires that operators of UST systems be trained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Each facility must have at least one Class A, Class B and Class C operator trained.

EPA established the following minimum training requirements for designated Class A, Class B, and Class C operators. Montana adopted these requirements as well. Currently, new Class A and Class B operators must be trained within 30 days of assuming duties. Class C operators must be trained before assuming duties.

Montana has developed its own free online training program

Class A operators

Each designated Class A operator must either be trained and/or pass an examination that provides general knowledge of the following requirements:

- Spill and overfill prevention
- Release detection
- Corrosion protection
- Emergency response
- Product and equipment compatibility and demonstration
- Financial responsibility
- Notification and storage tank registration
- Temporary and permanent closure
- Related reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and inspections
- Environmental and regulatory consequences of releases
- Training requirements for Class B and Class C operators

At a minimum, the training program must evaluate Class A operators to determine if they have the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions regarding compliance and determine whether appropriate individuals are fulfilling the operation, maintenance, and recordkeeping requirements for UST systems.

Class B operators

Each designated Class B operator must either be trained or pass a comparable examination about the regulatory requirements and typical equipment used at UST facilities; or site-specific requirements which address only the regulatory requirements and equipment specific to the facility:

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

At a minimum, the training program must evaluate Class B operators to determine if they have the knowledge and skills to implement applicable UST regulatory requirements on the components of either: typical UST systems or site-specific equipment used at their UST facility.

Class C operators

Each designated Class C operator must either: be trained by a Class A or Class B operator; complete a training program; or pass a comparable examination. The training option chosen must teach or evaluate the Class C operator's knowledge to take appropriate actions (including notifying appropriate authorities) in response to emergencies or alarms caused by spills or releases resulting from the operation of the UST system. Again, Class C operators must be trained before assuming duties.

Record Keeping

A record of all Class A, Class B, and Class C operators must be kept onsite or readily available. Copies of the TankHelper II certificates meet this requirement. A list of Class C operators must also be available. Certificates for the Class C operators trained by third party training programs may also be kept for this requirement. A list of these training programs is located at

https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/UST/Documents/PDFfiles/ThirdpartyClass_C_operatortraining.pdf .