

Investigation, enforcement and penalties

PSTB may investigate and enforce regulations regarding Tank Installer Certification per 20.5.14.19 NMAC, and may revoke certification for an installer upon grounds that the installer:

- 1) used fraud, misrepresentation or deception in obtaining the certification;
- 2) exhibited gross incompetence in the installation, replacement, repair, modification or removal of a storage tank system; or
- 3) was derelict in the performance of a duty as a certified installer required in 20.5.14.17 NMAC (including repeated failure to provide notice of releases or of the installation, replacement, repair, modification or removal of storage tank systems).

PSTB will follow the regulations of the Uniform Licensing Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 61-1-1 through 61-1-33 when denying or revoking certification.



For more information, contact:

New Mexico Environment Department
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park East, Bldg. 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 476-4397

<https://www.env.nm.gov/ust/ustbtop.html>

(10/16 version)

PSTB Prevention & Inspection Phone #s

Albuquerque

505-980-0412

Farmington

505-716-7994

Las Cruces

575-649-2954

Roswell

575-361-0216

Santa Fe

505-617-5954

Tank Fees and Certification Program

505-476-4392

Requirements for Tank Installer Certification



New Mexico Environment Department
Petroleum Storage Tank
Bureau 2905 Rodeo Park East,
Bldg. 1 Santa Fe, NM 87505

Requirements for Tank Installer Certification

New Mexico has required certification for tank installers since 1989. Anyone exercising supervisory control over a tank installation, repair or modification work that could affect a tank system's integrity must be a certified installer per 20.5.14.8 or 20.5.14.9 NMAC (which contain clarifications and exceptions to this general requirement).

Applications

Applications and requirements for first time certification and for renewal are located on the PSTB webpage (<https://www.env.nm.gov/ust/>) on the "Tank Installer Certification" tab.

For each type of certification (AST, UST or both), the applicant must submit:

- Application
- \$50 fee
- Demonstration of experience
- A passing grade on the International Code Council AST/UST Installation/Retrofitting exam.
- Passing grade on NM Laws and Rules exam
- Passing grade on an on-site exam, which has a fee of \$300

Requirements for certification renewal

For each type of certification (AST, UST or both), the applicant must submit:

- Application
- \$50 fee
- Demonstration of experience
- Passing grade on NM Laws and Rules exam
- Renewal requirements may be reviewed in 20.5.14.15 NMAC, located at <https://www.env.nm.gov/ust/ustbtop.html> on the "PST Regulations (current)" tab

PSTB cannot accept renewal applications after February 16th of the year that the installer certification expires. The renewal process must be completed by the expiration date of March 16, or the certification automatically expires and the installer must complete an application for new certification and comply with all requirements of 20.5.14.10 or 20.5.14.11 NMAC.

NM Laws and Rules exam

These are written tests required by 20.5.14.16 NMAC that are created and administrated by PSTB. The exams cover all PST regulations and applicants taking this exam should focus on 20.5 NMAC Parts:

- 1 - Definitions,
- 4 - Tank Installation and Standard Codes
- 5 - Operation /Maintenance of Storage Tanks
- 6 - Release Detection for ASTs and USTs
- 7 - Reporting Spills and Releases
- 8 - Tank Closure requirements
- 14 - Certification of Tank Installers
- 18 - Operator Training
- 19 - Delivery Prohibition

Applicants may take this test at any PSTB field office listed on this brochure. A \$45 fee is required for each individual AST or UST certification.

Payment should be made to the Storage Tank Fund and mailed to the Santa Fe office with a letter that indicates the preferred location and date for the test.

On-Site Examination

This exam required by 20.5.14.13 NMAC entails a complete tank system installation supervised by a PSTB inspector within 180 days from the date the application is submitted and requires a nonrefundable \$300 fee.

For good cause shown, the department may grant an applicant a one-time 180-day extension in which the applicant must take the on-site examination. If the applicant does not complete an

on-site examination within the extension's time period, the applicant must file a new application for certification, and must comply with all initial application requirements in 20.5.14.10 or 11 NMAC.

An applicant fails an on-site exam when cited for 3 significant errors during the on-site examination. Errors are defined as improper use of materials or installation practices that violate PSTB regulations, manufacturer's installation instructions or any other industry standards. A PSTB inspector may stop an on-site exam at any time if any activity presents a threat to public health, safety or welfare of the environment.

Installation Duties and Obligations

PSTB requires that certified installers comply with all PST regulations. NMAC 20.5.14.17 requires that a certified installer shall:

- 1) exercise responsible supervisory control over any installation, replacement, repair or modification undertaken;
- 2) at a minimum, be physically present on-site at all critical junctures in the installation, replacement, repair or modification; and
- 3) give notice as required by these regulations, 20.5 NMAC.

Only a certified installer who has the adequate knowledge of materials and technical requirements may perform installations, replacements, repairs, modifications, or removals and must provide 30 day written notice except for emergency repairs as described in 20.5.5 NMAC and defined in 20.5.1 NMAC. Completion of any of the actions listed must comply with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 74-4-1 through 74-4-14, and the Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations 20.5 NMAC.

It is the responsibility of the installer to report any suspected or confirmed releases observed at a site or surrounding area by the installer or any of the staff that he/she supervises (20.5.7 NMAC).