

Full requirements are in 20.5 NMAC, New Mexico's petroleum storage tank regulations. See our website below or contact the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau (PSTB) for a copy.



For more information write or call:

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Upgrade Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems



New Mexico
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Upgrade Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems

All existing aboveground storage tank (AST) systems that fall under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations of 20.5 NMAC must have been upgraded to meet all of the performance standards for new ASTs no later than July 1, 2011.

ASTs systems that have not met the upgrade requirements by the July 24, 2018 must be permanently closed in accordance with 20.5.115 NMAC.

Existing AST systems must have complied with the following requirements in accordance with the following upgrade schedule:

By August 15, 2004

- Spill prevention equipment which will prevent release of product when the transfer hose is detached from the fill port must have been installed. An example of this type of device is a spill catchment basin.
- Overfill prevention equipment that meets one of the following must have been installed:
 - 1) Automatically shuts off flow into the tank when the tank is no more than 95 percent full; or
 - 2) Alerts the transfer operator when the tank is no more than 90 percent full by restricting the flow into the tank or triggering a high-level audible and visual alarm.
- Monthly monitoring to meet Release Detection requirements for tanks and piping must have been started.
- Single walled ASTs must have been internally inspected or tightness tested.

Other Related Requirements

- USTs used as ASTs have been prohibited as of July 1, 2013.

- Owners and operators of AST systems must either purchase pollution liability insurance against 3rd Party Claims or use another mechanism listed in 20.5.117 NMAC. The amount and scope of financial responsibility are the same as those in effect for underground storage tank systems.

By July 1, 2011

- Existing ASTs that were in use on or before July 1, 2001 must have been upgraded to meet all of the performance standards for new ASTs.
- Tanks must be either double-walled or installed inside an approved secondary containment system. The secondary containment system may be constructed of concrete, earthen dike with geo-synthetic liner, or steel, but cannot be constructed of clay. The secondary containment system must be able to contain 110 percent of the volume of the largest tank within the system in addition to the volumetric footprint of any other tanks in the containment system.
- Underground piping that is part of an aboveground storage tank system must be either double-walled or secondarily contained. Fiberglass-reinforced plastic or flexible piping must be double-walled and completely underground. Single-walled steel piping that is aboveground and coated with a suitable material does not have to be secondarily contained. Double-walled underground piping must be interstitially monitored.
- Containment sumps must have been installed at any point where piping transitions from aboveground to below ground.
- Loading racks must have been secondarily contained by a containment system capable of containing the largest compartment of a tank car or tanker truck loaded or unloaded at the facility. Also, loading racks connected to ASTs containing a Class I liquid must be at least 25 feet from ASTs, buildings, and property lines.

Loading racks connected to ASTs with Class II or III liquids must be at least 15 feet from ASTs, buildings, and property lines.

- Dispensers associated with an AST system are required to have containment sumps which are hydrostatically tested upon installation.
- Normal and emergency venting must have been installed in accordance with an industry standard such as Petroleum Equipment Institute RP 200. Double-walled ASTs must also have had emergency venting installed on its interstice. Proper venting may prevent over pressurization of the tank and possible catastrophic failure.
- ASTs with saddle supports must at a minimum have been installed on footers.
- ASTs with longitudinal supports (skids) must have been installed on a concrete pad with a minimum compression strength of 3000 psi at 28 days.

By July 24, 2021

- The exemption for AST systems in secondary containment from spill and overfill prevention requirements has been deleted. Owners and operators must no later than July 24, 2021 install spill and overfill prevention requirements on their systems. ASTs that receive deliveries of less than 25 gallon are still exempt from spill and overfill prevention requirement.

Who Can Do Upgrades?

After August 15, 2004, only New Mexico certified installers have been permitted to perform these upgrades; these contractors must have passed written and field exams to demonstrate the proper skills required to do this type of work. If you have any questions regarding requirements for AST systems, contact the Petroleum Storage Tank Inspector that inspects the specific AST system.