



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK GUIDELINES TO ANNUAL SPILL CONTAINER TESTING

Under the authority of California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.7, Section 25284.2, spill containers must be tested annually to demonstrate that the structure is capable of containing a hazardous substance until it is detected and cleaned up.

APPLICATION

This test procedure applies to both directly buried spill containers and spill containers located within secondary containment sumps. There is no testing exemption for spill containers within secondary containment sumps.

PROCEDURE

The following procedures shall be used to test the spill container. The annual spill container test must be conducted during the complete annual underground storage tank continuous monitoring certification.

1. Directly buried spill containers, must be tested to a standard consistent with the “Standard for Secondary Containment Testing of Underground Storage Tank Systems” every three years. This means that the procedures below shall be followed annually except for every third year when directly buried spill containers must be tested using 2-15 minute “lake” tests with a monitoring device capable of measuring to an accuracy within .002 inches. Directly buried spill buckets cannot be tested using product.
2. Evaluate the drain valve for tightness prior to testing and seal it off. This can be done one of two ways:
 - A. Add liquid to empty and pre-cleaned spill containers above the drain line and, if applicable, slightly over the collar of the spill container. If the liquid does not hold, the spill container is not considered tight enough to proceed with the test and has failed the secondary containment test. If it is determined to be tight enough to proceed, continue to step three.
 - B. If there is liquid in the spill container above the drain line and collar at the start of the inspection, you may assume the spill container is initially tight enough to conduct testing. It is noted however, that the presence of standing liquid in the spill container is a violation. Prior to proceeding to step three the liquid must be cleaned up and legally managed.

The purpose of this initial test is to minimize the amount of water or contaminated liquid that may enter the tank.

3. Fill the spill container with liquid to a level 2” below the drop tube/fill line opening at the beginning of the annual continuous monitoring certification.
4. Mark the spill container liquid line with spray paint. Another method may be used as approved by the inspector.
5. Conduct the continuous monitoring certification. The recommended test period is no less than 30 minutes.
6. Return to the spill container and check the liquid line for a decrease. If there is an observable drop in the liquid level, the spill container has failed the secondary containment test.

RECORD KEEPING

Section 9 of the State’s Secondary Containment Reporting Form must be completed by the technician. This form shall be attached to the Monitoring Certification Form and submitted to the County of Riverside, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Management Division within 30 days of the test event. The UST owner/operator of the underground tank system shall retain a copy for their records.

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