

HEALTH CARE AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

GUIDELINES FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

Section 2671 of Title 23 allows for the temporary closure of underground storage tanks in which the storage of hazardous substances has ceased but the underground tank will again be used for the storage of hazardous substances within the next 12 months.

The applicant must obtain approval from the local fire department prior to initiating an application for temporary closure of an underground storage tank with the Environmental Health Division.

After approval has been obtained from the local fire department, a Facility Modification Application and a temporary closure plan must be submitted along with the required fees, to Environmental Health. Applications may be obtained in person, or by calling Environmental Health at (714) 433-6000.

- 1. The applicant will submit the completed Facility Modification Application and fee to Environmental Health at the above address. Plans must include:
 - a. A site location and plot plan identifying existing structures and all underground storage tanks. Identify the underground tanks to be temporarily closed.
 - b. The size of the underground storage tanks to be closed and the types of hazardous substances which have been stored in the tanks.
 - c. The method to be used to demonstrate that no unauthorized release has occurred.
 - d. A written description of the monitoring and testing to be performed on the closed tank.
- 2. The applicant must apply for permits from city or County Fire Department, city or County Building Department, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (if applicable) for their approval.
- 3. The applicant must provide 48 hours notice to Environmental Health and the local fire department for an on-site inspection of the tank and soil sampling (if applicable).
- 4. Owners of underground storage tanks proposing temporary closure of an underground tank shall comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 6.7 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and the following:
 - a. All residual liquid, solids, or sludges from the underground storage tank shall be removed and disposed of as hazardous waste. A copy of all uniform hazardous waste manifests used for the disposal shall be forwarded to Environmental Health after they have been signed by the receiving State permitted hazardous waste disposal facility;

- b. If the underground storage tank contained a hazardous substance that could produce flammable vapors at standard temperature and pressure, then the underground storage tank, shall be inerted to levels that shall preclude an explosion or to such lower levels as may be required by the local fire department;
- c. The underground storage tank may be filled with a non-corrosive liquid that is not a hazardous substance. This liquid must be tested and results submitted to the Environmental Health Division prior to its being removed from the underground tank at the end of the temporary closure period;
- d. Except for required venting, all fill and access locations and piping shall be sealed utilizing locked caps or concrete plugs;
- e. Power service shall be disconnected from all pumps associated with the use of the underground storage tank except if the pump services some other equipment which is not being closed. In all cases, however, corrosion protection shall continue to be operated.
- f. The underground storage tank shall be inspected by the owner or operator at least once every three (3) months to assure that the temporary closure actions are still in place. This shall include:
 - (1) Visual inspection of all locked caps and concrete plugs.
 - (2) If locked caps are utilized, then at least one shall be removed to determine if any liquids or other substances have been added to the underground storage tank or if there has been a change in the quantity or type of liquid added pursuant to number (4)(c) above.
 - (3) Records of all monitoring must be kept on-site or at a readily available location.
- 5. The owner of the underground storage tank shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of Environmental Health that an unauthorized release has not occurred during the time the tank was used. The following will satisfy this requirement:
 - a. The underground storage tank must pass a state approved tank integrity test prior to completion of the closure; or
 - b. Obtain soil sample(s) from soil boring(s) made beneath the tank. The soil boring(s) and sampling must be witnessed by Environmental Health staff. Soil sample(s) shall be analyzed, at the owner's expense, for the substances and constituents previously stored in the tank. A copy of the soil analysis report should be forwarded directly to Environmental Health. The laboratory analysis must include a statement certifying that the sample(s) were received on the same day as sampled, in a chilled state, and that the County seals on the sample containers were intact.
- 6. Environmental Health will review the application and plans and either approve or deny the submission. Also, site inspections may be conducted to assure compliance with these requirements.

NOTE: At the end of the temporary closure period, up to 12 months, the owner may reuse the tank only if the tank meets the requirements for new tanks or for upgraded tanks in accordance with Title 23, CCR.

The temporary closure is completed only after successful compliance with the above requirements. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact the Underground Storage Tank Program at (714) 433-6000.

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