

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Storage Tanks
February 20, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Emergency Containment Requirements for Large
Aboveground Storage Tanks**

Aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) with a capacity greater than 21,000 gallons (large ASTs) must meet emergency containment requirements under 25 Pa. Code § 245.542(d). Amendments to 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 245 (the Storage Tank Regulations) (See § 245.542(d)(1)-(2)), effective on December 22, 2018, clarify these requirements.

Under § 245.542(d)(1), the following emergency containment structures must have a permeability less than 1×10^{-6} cm/sec for the substance stored at the anticipated hydrostatic head:

- Emergency containment structures for ASTs installed after October 11, 1997
- Emergency containment structures for ASTs that became regulated after October 11, 1997
- Emergency containment structures installed after October 11, 1997
- Emergency containment structures replaced after October 11, 1997

Under § 245.542(d)(2), emergency containment structures for large ASTs installed on or before October 11, 1997 must have a permeability less than 1×10^{-6} cm/sec for the substance stored at the anticipated hydrostatic head or have a professional engineer verify that the emergency containment structure, coupled with the tank monitoring program and response plan, is capable of detecting and recovering a release and is designed to prevent contamination of the waters of this Commonwealth.

In order to prevent contamination of environmental media by releases from aboveground storage tanks, it is important to correctly interpret the regulations. If you have questions or desire clarification of the above, please contact the Division of Storage Tanks at (717) 772-5599 and ask to speak with a member of the Aboveground Storage Tank Unit.