

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Storage Tanks
February 6, 2012

IMPORTANT NOTICE
UST Operator Training

With the August 8, 2012, deadline for the designation of certified operators at UST facilities approaching, the Department has learned that there may be misunderstanding among certified installers and inspectors regarding the applicability of their certification to the training of certified UST operators. §245.436(b) of the Storage Tank regulations allows Department-certified companies, installers, and inspectors with UMX or IUM certification to *perform* Class A and B operator duties when employed or contracted by the tank owner to perform these functions. This does not, however, allow the certified individual or company to *train others* as Class A or B UST operators without first receiving approval as a UST Operator Training provider under §245.436(c).

Another concern is the assumption by tank owners that due to an existing preventative maintenance agreement with a certified company or the use of a certified inspector to perform their third party inspections, a certified person or company automatically becomes their Class A and/or B operator. In order to be the Class A and/or B operator at a facility, the Department-certified company, installer, or inspector must be under written contract with the facility. The contract should specifically identify in what capacity the certified company, installer, or inspector is serving. In addition, please note that the certified operator cannot perform Facility Operations Inspections at the facility, as this would be a violation of the conflict of interest regulations in §245.106.

If you wish to train others as Class A or B operators, you are encouraged to submit a training course application for approval as a UST Operator Training provider. The training course application, as well as a list of currently approved operator training providers, can be found on the Storage Tanks website under the links Underground Storage Tanks / UST Operators, which are found in the right-side navigation bar. The Storage Tanks website can be found by going to www.depweb.state.pa.us, click on DEP Programs A-Z, click on Storage Tanks.

If you have questions or desire clarification of the above, please contact Kris Shiffer with the Division of Storage Tanks at (717) 772-5599.