

PSTB Prevention & Inspection Phone #s

- 1) The tank must be completely visible and readily accessible;
- 2) The tank must not be in contact with the ground or soil.
- 3) A log must be kept at the facility, which includes the date, time, initials of the inspector, comments on the condition of the tank, and the results of each inspection.

Interstitial Monitoring for Tanks or Piping

All sensors used in interstitial monitoring must be tested annually in accordance with manufacturer's requirements to ensure they're functioning properly.

Note:

To prevent releases, above ground tanks located at an elevation so as to produce a gravity head on the dispenser system or piping shall be equipped with an anti-siphon or solenoid valve.

Alternate Method, 20.5.111.1110 NMAC

If the owner wishes to use an alternate release detection method they believe will provide protection of the environment equivalent to the methods listed above, they must submit their plans to the Department. The owner shall not begin installation until the Department approves the request.

See 20.5 NMAC, New Mexico's petroleum storage tank regulations, for full requirements.

Albuquerque

505-980-8900

Farmington

505-716-7994

Las Cruces

575-649-2954

Roswell

575-361-0216

Santa Fe

505-670-9171



For more information write or call:

New Mexico Environment
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 476-4397

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Release Detection Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tanks



New Mexico
Environment Department
Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

New Mexico requires that owners and operators of new and existing aboveground storage tank (AST) systems provide a method or combination of methods of release detection that can detect a release from any portion of the tank, connected piping and ancillary equipment that routinely contains a regulated substance and meets the following:

- 1) is installed and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- 2) is operated and maintained according to manufacturer's instructions or the current edition of an industry standard or code of practice developed by a nationally recognized association or independent testing laboratory approved in advance by the department;
- 3) has electronic and mechanical components that are tested to ensure proper operation; and
- 4) meets the applicable performance requirements in 20.5.111 NMAC

Or, if the release detection method meets all the requirements for visual inspections in Section 1102 of 20.5.111 NMAC, it does not have to meet 1) - 4) above.

Methods of Release Detection for Piping

Each method of release detection for piping used to meet the requirements of 20.5.111 NMAC must comply with the equipment manufacturer's testing protocol, be appropriate for the type and length of piping, and comply with the current edition of an industry standard or code of practice developed by a nationally recognized association or independent testing laboratory approved in advance by the department.

For underground piping installed prior to July 24, 2018, owners and operators must meet the following requirements;

Owners and operators of piping that conveys regulated substances under pressure must:

- equip piping with automatic line leak detectors that alert the operator to the presence of a leak, only if they detect leaks of three gallons per hour at 10 pounds per square inch line pressure within one hour.

- conduct an annual test of the operation of the leak detector;
- provide the department with a copy of the report for all leak detector testing;
- conduct an annual pressure test or conduct monthly monitoring by interstitial monitoring, visual inspection, or another approved method.

Owners and operators of underground piping that conveys regulated substances under suction must either have it pressure tested annually or conduct monthly monitoring.

Owners and operators of ASTs with pressurized piping where the entire run is above ground shall not be required to install an automatic line leak detector if the following are met:

- 1) A solenoid valve is installed on the piping at the submersible turbine pump;
- 2) A manually activated control valve is installed that will permit the submersible turbine pump to operate only when a nozzle is removed from its bracket; and
- 3) A manually activated control valve is installed that will stop the submersible turbine pump from operating when a nozzle is returned to its bracket.

Owners and operators of aboveground piping may use visual inspection as a method of release detection if all of the following are met:

- 1) All portions of the piping are completely visible and readily accessible;
- 2) Piping is not in contact with the ground or soil; and
- 3) A log must be kept at the facility, which includes the date, time, initials of the inspector, comments on the condition of the piping, and the results of each inspection.

For underground piping installed or modified on, or after, July 24, 2018, owners and operators are required to use interstitial monitoring as the method of release detection for the piping and must meet the following:

- equip piping with automatic line leak detectors that restrict or shut off flow when they detect leaks of three gallons per hour at 10 pounds per square inch line pressure within one hour.
- install containment sumps at both ends of the underground piping;
- install sensors in all of the containment sumps that sound an alarm when a liquid is detected and automatically shut off the submersible turbine pump, or the suction pump on suction piping systems;
- conduct an annual test of the operation of the leak detector and sensors;
- test the containment sumps every three years;
- provide the department with a copy of the report for all leak detector and sensor testing.

Tank Monitoring

All ASTs must be monitored monthly for the potential loss of product. Manufacturers of double-walled aboveground storage tank systems provide access for monitoring systems that are field or factory installed. The monitoring systems may be either electronic or manual. One (or a combination) of the following methods **must** be used to monitor ASTs:

- **Automatic Tank Gauging**

This equipment tests for loss of product and conducts inventory control. It must be capable of detecting at least a 0.2 gallon per hour loss of product. The system **may** require the tank system to be shut down for a period of time, typically during hours of non-operation.

- **Interstitial Monitoring**

This method of monitoring can include sensors placed in between the wall of the tank or piping and an impervious secondary barrier, or construction of an impervious secondary barrier that will allow for monthly monitoring of the space in between the tank and the barrier.

- **Visual Inspection**

Visual inspection of an aboveground storage tank may be used to meet the requirement of monitoring the tank monthly. The following requirements must be met in order to use this method: