

What is required of a trained operator?

Once the owner and/or employees of a facility have been trained to fulfill the duties for their assigned class of operator (A, B or C), they will have particular requirements to meet. The requirements for the operator classes are as follows:

- 1) Each month either the Class A or the Class B operator will inspect their assigned facilities per Section 409 of 20.5.104 NMAC. The operator performing the inspections will document the inspections with checklists and will maintain these as proof of compliance with the regulations.
- 2) Owners shall ensure that at least one trained operator, whether Class A, B, or C, is on site whenever each facility is open and fuel is being dispensed. Unmanned facilities do not have to have a trained operator always present if they meet the requirements in Section 405 of 20.5.104 NMAC.



For more information, write or call:

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

(02/22 version)

PSTB Prevention & Inspection Phone #s

Albuquerque

505-980-0412

Farmington

505-716-7994

Las Cruces

575-649-2954

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Operator Training Requirements for Petroleum Storage Tank Systems



New Mexico
Environment Department
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Santa Fe, NM 87505

What is Operator Training?

Operator training requirements became effective in New Mexico on June 15, 2009. As of June 1, 2012, all owners of existing petroleum storage tank systems regulated under 20.5 NMAC should have designated trained operators for each facility. You may view the requirements and rules in 20.5.104 NMAC located on the New Mexico Commission of Public Records / State Records Center and Archives website at <https://www.srca.nm.gov/chapter-5-petroleum-storage-tanks/>.

Operator training requires owners designate and train the employees to become certified operators. The type of training an owner and his employees receive depends on what operator class they are designated. There are three different classes of operators:

- 1) **Class A Operator** has primary responsibility to operate and maintain the storage tank systems for the facilities assigned to him or her, including managing resources and personnel to achieve and maintain compliance with regulatory requirements; is knowledgeable of statutory & regulatory requirements; and ensures records are maintained. This class of operator is usually an owner or an environmental manager for a company with multiple facilities.
- 2) **Class B Operator** - implements the day-to-day aspects of operating & maintaining storage tank systems; ensures the methods of release detection are properly performed and release prevention equipment is properly maintained; and maintains records.

- 3) **Class C Operator** - is typically an employee whose primary responsibility is emergency response. The Class C Operator must be trained by either the Class A or B Operator of the facility. Owners can designate as many employees as they want for each class. The Class C operator is typically a sales clerk behind the counter at a gas station.

Owners have the option of hiring third party contractors to designate as trained operators if the contractors have successfully completed the training described in 20.5.104 NMAC.

Owners may designate either themselves or their employees for multiple operator classes. For instance, if an owner of a single facility has only one employee, the owner may designate himself as both the Class A & B Operators of the facility. The owner would then train the employee as a Class C operator for the facility.

Where do I get this training?

Operator training is provided by third party companies, not by the State or the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau. Some companies may want to provide in-house training. All training programs must be pre-approved by the New Mexico Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau. Any company wishing to become an approved trainer must follow the requirements in Section 408 of 20.5.104 NMAC. An application matrix is available on the Bureau webpage (see link below).

Owners are responsible for all costs associated with Operator Training

A list of approved trainers can be viewed on our

webpage at:

https://www.env.nm.gov/petroleum_storage_tank/tank-system-testing-and-reporting-requirements/.

How often is this training required?

Class A and Class B operators must be **retrained every 5 years** in the same manner as the initial training. There are a few exceptions to this requirement:

- 1) If the Bureau finds a storage tank system out of compliance, the Class A & Class B operators of the system must be re-trained within 60 days.
- 2) Class A and Class B operators may elect to re-train annually which will relieve them of the requirement for retraining when any of their facilities is found out of compliance.
- 3) Owners of two or fewer facilities where the average monthly throughput for each facility over the last 12 months is less than 20,000 gallons may request in writing a one-time deferral of re-training. The facilities cannot be out of compliance in the preceding 5 years, and cannot have had any significant changes, modifications, or upgrades in the 5 years preceding this request.

No re-training or re-certification is required for Class C operators. Class C operators must be trained and certified each time they are designated for a particular storage tank system.