

From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

...But I Have Sumps

A lot of the newer fueling stations at convenience stores have been installed with sumps at the submerged turbine pump (STP) and at the dispensers. The purpose of the sumps is to keep fuel that may leak around the fittings from getting into the ground causing contamination and they also protect the equipment from corrosion. At the dispensers, the fuel filters are changed periodically, and there may be a little spillage while changing the filter. The sumps will prevent contamination of the surrounding soil/groundwater.



All components of an UST system which are designed to convey, contain, or store regulated substances shall be protected from the corrosive elements of the surrounding soil, backfill or groundwater. Having sumps installed at the STP and dispensers will provide this protection for metal components in these areas. If water is allowed to enter the sumps, such as from surface water like rain or groundwater leaking in because the sump is not water tight, the metal components are no longer protected from corrosion.

Note: In a recent inspection by the EPA, a facility was fined for failing to have corrosion protection because water was present in one of the sumps.

Recommendation: Once a month the sumps should be checked to make sure they are clean & dry.

Safety Note: At the sump for the STP, the metal covers are heavy. Be sure to use the "Magic Rope". Not sure what that is, give Bill a call at the McAllen office.