

# From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

## *What's New!*

**TCEQ Inspections** - In the April issue of The PSI News Dispenser, increased inspections by the TCEQ to meet the Energy Bill of 2005 was mentioned. This gives a deadline of having all registered UST facilities that were not inspected prior to December 22, 1998, to meet inspection for compliance by August 8, 2007. This inspection includes facilities that have tanks in the ground and have been out of service for years. By the number of calls we are getting, the TCEQ has been very busy doing Compliance inspections.

**New labels for diesel fuel** - Since June 1, 2006, you may have noticed some new labels for diesel. One label will say Low Sulfur Highway Diesel, 500 ppm Sulfur **not to be used** in highway vehicles and engines model year 2007 and later. The other label will say Ultra-Low Sulfur Highway Diesel, 15 ppm Sulfur **recommended** for all diesel vehicles and engines. By October 15, 2006, 80% of the retail facilities will be carrying the Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel. Check with your vehicle dealer on the use of the Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel for your vehicle.

**TCEQ Field Citation** - Since May 13, 2006, the TCEQ has been issuing what they call Field Citations for non-compliance with UST requirements. For example, if you don't have monthly release detection for your tanks and do over 50,000 gallons a month in sales, it will cost you \$3,500. You will have 30 days to pay the fine and 60 days to get into compliance or the fine increases to \$5,000 or more.

**Sad but True** - You are probably seeing less and less of the "Mom & Pop" convenience stores or the gas stations with a two bay garage for auto repair. With the fluctuating price of fuel and competition from the bigger convenience stores, they are becoming a thing of the past.

If you are thinking about closing down your fueling operation as there is not enough business to support it, please give us a call, as there are specific things you need to do to meet TCEQ requirements besides turning off the sign.