

From the Compliance Corner:

by Bill Morris

New TCEQ Regulations

There are new TCEQ Regulations that became effective as of October 30, 2008. This includes secondary containment, dispenser sumps, monitoring of sumps installed after January 1, 2009, and requirements for existing UST systems installed prior to January 1, 2009.

Any new tank, line or dispenser installed as part of a UST system on or after January 1, 2009, shall incorporate secondary containment if they meet the applicable requirements of §334.45(d) of this title (relating to Technical Standards for New Underground Storage Tank Systems).

For specific information, go to our web site at: www.petroleumolutionsinc.com and click on "About Us" then "state requirements" for specific TCEQ rule sections. Installed means in place and backfilled. **NOTE:** External liners (trench or tank) are no longer allowed as a secondary containment method.

In summary after January 1, 2009:

Tanks & lines – All tanks and lines installed after the effective date must be double-wall/ secondary contained and must include an interstitial monitoring system.

New dispensers – must have sumps with liquid sensing probes that will alert the owner/operator if more than two inches of liquid collects in any sump or man-way. The new dispenser sumps will need to be tightness tested after installation and every three years thereafter and inspected for tightness annually. Liquids in sumps and man-ways must be removed and properly disposed of within 72 hours after discovery.

Existing UST systems – Any sumps (including dispenser sumps) that are part of the integral release detection system and any overspill containers or catchment basins installed at any time, must be inspected at least every 60 days to assure they are liquid tight. Any liquid or debris must be removed and properly disposed of within 72 hours after discovery.

The 20% piping replacement rule – Up to 20% of existing single-wall can be replaced without requiring secondary containment as long as it does not connect to a "New Dispenser". If more than 20% of the existing single-wall piping is replaced or connects to a "New Dispenser", then the entire line must be replaced with one that incorporates secondary containment including installation of sumps.

What is a New Dispenser? – A New Dispenser is one that is installed where none previously existed or any dispenser that is replaced with the transitional piping beneath the dispenser (e.g. flexible connectors, piping risers or shear valves) which serve to connect the dispenser to the underground piping are replaced. In other words, if an existing dispenser is removed and another dispenser connected without disturbing or replacing any of the existing connections, it is not considered a New Dispenser.

NOTE: In replacing the dispenser, if it is found that a shear valve, flex connector or piping riser is damaged and needs to be replaced (to make it functional) it is not considered a New Dispenser.