UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY WITH ALTERNATIVE FUELS

For use by Unidocs Member Agencies or where approved by your Local Jurisdiction
Authority Cited: Title 23 California Code of Regulations §2631(j)

A. Definitions

Biodiesel - A renewable fuel that can be manufactured from new and used vegetable oils such as recycled restaurant grease, and animal fat. B100 is pure Biodiesel. Biodiesel also comes in blends with names that indicate the percentage of renewable fuel blended with petroleum diesel (i.e., B5 = 5% Biodiesel and 95% petroleum diesel, B20 = 20% Biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel, etc.). California UST regulations consider blends of B5 and below to be a petroleum diesel blend rather than Biodiesel as far as compatibility with UST systems is concerned.

Local Agency - The local Unified Program Agency (UPA) that implements the Underground Storage Tank Program.

Third-Party Approval - Approval by an independent organization (e.g., Underwriters Laboratories).

B. Product Compatibility Requirements

Title 23 California Code of Regulations (23 CCR) §2631(b) requires that the design and construction of underground storage tank (UST) system primary containment and integral secondary containment components be approved by an independent testing organization in accordance with industry codes, voluntary consensus standards, or engineering standards. This includes components used to construct the primary containment system, such as special accessories, fittings, coatings or linings, monitoring systems, and level controls. The approval must address compatibility of the component with the hazardous substance stored or to be stored. Independent approvals have typically addressed the storage of common products such as gasoline and diesel, but not the storage of other materials such as E85 or fuels containing greater than 5% Biodiesel (B5).

As of June 1, 2012, if the third-party approvals for any of these UST components do not address chemical compatibility of the component with the specific hazardous substance stored, the UST owner or operator must either remove the incompatible material from the UST(s) or submit to the local agency a written affirmative statement of compatibility. The statement of compatibility, along with the independent testing approval specified in 23 CCR §2631(b), will satisfy the requirement that all primary containment components and integral secondary containment systems be approved by an independent testing organization as being compatible with the specific hazardous substance stored or to be stored.

An affirmative statement of compatibility may only be submitted for UST systems installed after January 1, 1984, which meet the construction requirements specified in California Health and Safety Code §25291(a)(1)-(6) and (b)-(i); §25290.1; or §25290.2, as applicable. If an affirmative statement of compatibility made by a manufacturer conflicts with a later determination by an independent testing organization on the compatibility of the hazardous substance stored or to be stored, the written, affirmative statement of compatibility shall no longer be valid, and storage of the incompatible material must cease.

C. Temporary Biodiesel Variances

All temporary variances authorizing the storage of Biodiesel (i.e., >B5 to B20) in USTs expired as of June 1, 2012.

D. Submittal Requirements

The tank owner/operator shall submit to the local Unified Program Agency that implements the UST Program a completed Unidocs Underground Storage Tank System Affirmative Statement of Compatibility form prior to storing Biodiesel or E85 in a UST system. The form is available at **www.unidocs.org**. Agency jurisdiction and contact information is available at **www.unidocs.org/members/whoregulateswhat.html**.

E. Resources

The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff are working with manufacturers to obtain affirmative statements of compatibility. Statements which provide sufficient information (i.e., model numbers, name of component, when component was manufactured) are posted at **www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/alt_comp_opt.shtml**.

Underground Storage Tank leak detection equipment and methods that are approved for use in California are listed in the SWRCB's Local Guidance Letter 113 (LG 113), available at **www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/leak_prevention/lgs**.

Leak detection equipment approved for use with Biodiesel storage is available at **www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/leak_prevention/lg113/misc/biodiesel_eq.shtml**.

Leak detection equipment approved for use with E85 storage is available at **www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/leak_prevention/lg113/misc/e85veeder.shtml**.