

What is required of a trained operator?

Once an owner and/or his employees have been trained to fulfill the duties for their assigned class 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 18 of 20.5.18 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 the business is open and fuel is being dispensed. Un-manned facilities do not have to have a trained operator present at all times if they meet the requirements in Section 13 of 20.5.18 NMAC.



For more information write or call:

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(1/13 version)

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Operator Training Requirements for Petroleum Storage Tank Systems



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What is Operator Training?

Operator training requirements were effective in New Mexico June 15, 2009.

You may view the requirements and rules in 20.5.18 NMAC located on the PSTB's webpage at www.nmenv.state.nm.us on the "Operators Training" link.

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 the overall responsibility for the facilities assigned to them, is knowledgeable of statutory & regulatory requirements, and maintains appropriate records. 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.
- 3) **Class C Operator** - is typically an employee whose primary responsibility is emergency response. The Class C Operator must be trained by either 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 as long as the contractors have successfully completed the training described in 20.5.18 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.

Deadlines for Operator Training

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. The phased-in deadlines are:

Where do I get this training?

Operator training will be 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 16 of 20.5.18 NMAC. An application matrix is available on the Bureau webpage.

Owners are responsible for all costs associated with Operator Training.

A list of approved trainers can be viewed on our webpage at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ust on the "Operator Training" link.

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.

Class C operators are only required to be re-trained if they are designated facility.