
State Water Resources Control Board

May 4, 2021

To: Underground Storage Tank Owners and Operators, Unified Program Agencies, and Other Interested Parties

Advisory regarding Non-Compliant Reuse of Underground Storage Tanks

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is aware of underground storage tanks (UST) being removed from one facility and reinstalled at another facility without certification by an independent testing organization and in some instances, without prior review and approval by the Unified Program Agency (UPA). Further, UST owners are providing UST installation plans to UPAs noting new USTs, however, one or more of the USTs arriving for installation are reused from another facility. As UST manufacturers are struggling with the supply and demand of USTs, the State Water Board expects to see more facilities attempting to reuse USTs.

All USTs must indicate approval by an independent testing organization as required by California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16, section 2631(b). Section 2631(b) requires the exterior surface of a UST to “bear a marking, code stamp, or label” (collectively referred to as “label”) providing specified information, including identification that the UST has been constructed to specific standards. USTs may only be reinstalled if the UST has been recertified by an independent testing organization. Additionally, a new UST label must be affixed to the UST certifying that the UST has been tested and meets the current independent testing standards. Manufacturers cannot recertify used tanks. If an independent testing organization does recertify a used UST, the manufacturer of the UST may assist in the testing process and may install those components necessary to meet current construction standards, such as sump collars.

To avoid used USTs that have not been recertified by an independent testing organization from being delivered for new installation, UPAs should consider modifying their installation permits, plan check policy, and inspection process to address the reuse of USTs and to verify contractor, UST, and independent testing organization status. UST Inspectors are to ensure proper labels are correctly affixed during UST installations. Tanks without proper labeling cannot be installed as USTs and must be rejected for installation.

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If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (916) 341-5870 or Laura.Fisher@waterboards.ca.gov, or Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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