



Bulk Fuel Storage Requirements

Introduction:

Proper fuel storage is essential for safety, efficiency, and long-term operational success. Spills, contamination, and non-compliance can drive up costs. Effective storage solutions can protect your fuel and equipment, prevent compliance issues, and create a safer work environment.

Discussion Points:

- Review fuel storage regulations for the EPA, OSHA, and NFPA.
- Follow safety protocols and established guidelines for storage containers, secondary containment systems, fire-safety measures, and proper ventilation practices.
- Ensure tanks are made from corrosion-resistant materials, and verify that the location minimizes environmental risks.
- Establish a routine schedule for inspections and maintenance.

Discussion:

Bulk fuel storage requires strict compliance with federal, state, and local safety procedures, environmental regulations, and fire codes. Effective storage solutions protect equipment from damage and ensure fuel quality by preventing contamination and improper handling. Proper storage practices help maintain a clean, safe environment. Leaks from storage containers can cause harmful contaminants to seep into soil and groundwater, posing significant environmental risks. Spills during storage or transfer can create hazardous conditions and increase the likelihood of slips, falls, and work-related injuries.

Following established guidelines for fuel handling, labeling, and storage is essential to comply with safety and environmental regulations to prevent workplace hazards:

- Tanks must maintain safe separation distances of at least 25 to 40 feet from buildings, property lines, and ignition sources.
- Tanks should be fabricated using materials that are resistant to corrosion to ensure longevity and functionality.
- Keep fuel tanks undercover and out of direct sunlight.
- Open flames and smoking are strictly prohibited in and around fuel storage and dispensing areas.
- Tanks must display clear, visible hazard warnings, identify the specific materials stored, and include emergency shut-off controls.
- Proper emergency and normal venting systems are mandatory to manage internal pressure changes that may occur during temperature fluctuations and filling operations.
- Implement fire suppression systems that comply with OSHA, NFPA, and local fire codes.
- Install leak-detection systems. Stationary tanks require secondary containment systems capable of holding 110 percent of the tanks' total capacity to contain any potential leaks.



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- Protect tanks and dispensing devices from vehicle impacts using concrete islands, curbing, or bollards.
 - Conduct regular tank inspections. Follow EPA and OSHA regulations and monitor fuel quality.
 - Underground storage tank (UST) systems include any tank and the underground piping connected to it, provided at least 10 percent of the combined volume is underground. Federal regulations for USTs apply only to systems that store either petroleum or specific hazardous substances.

By following these detailed guidelines, we can significantly reduce workplace hazards and promote a safer working environment.

As always, stay safe out there!