



# Underground Storage Tank Program

## March 2026 Update

### Replacing Mechanical Release Detection Equipment

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff have received several questions about which continuous electronic release detection equipment may be used to replace failed mechanical release detection equipment. Generally, there are two methods approved for electronic monitoring of sumps ([Local Guidance 113](#)<sup>1</sup>). One option is to monitor sumps using sensors connected to the monitoring panel. This method is advantageous since the alarm occurs at the monitoring panel, and the panel may be programmed to shut down the turbine when an underground storage tank (UST) facility utilizes the fail-safe/positive shut-off option for pipe monitoring. This method requires a low voltage conduit between the under-dispenser containment (UDC) and monitoring panel, which often is not installed for UDCs utilizing mechanical release detection. The second option is the stand-alone sensors. These are wired directly to the power supply of the dispenser. If a release is detected in the UDC, the stand-alone sensor cuts power to the dispenser but does not generate an alarm at the monitoring panel or shut off power to the turbine. This is the less preferable option, but meets the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2652(a)(1)(B).

Mechanical release detection equipment that fails for any reason must be replaced with an electronic release detection method. The State Water Board is aware of multiple instances where Unified Program Agency (UPA) inspectors have observed mechanical device failures but have not required the UST owner or operator to replace the device. Any failure, including adjustment of the connecting chain or failure of the shear valve to properly shut off flow, must be cited by the UPA and corrected by replacement with electronic release detection by the UST owner or operator.

For additional information regarding mechanical release detection equipment, please contact: Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak\\_prevention/lg113/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/lg113/)

## Release Detection Reporting – Mechanical Release Detection

As part of the Certified Unified Program Agency evaluation, staff verify that UST testing documents submitted to the UPAs are accurate and complete. A common issue identified is the absence of UDC mechanical release detection test results in Section 6 (Sensor Test Results) of the Release Detection Equipment Testing Report Form. The results of the mechanical release detection device, commonly referred to as the float and chain, must be documented in Section 6. UPAs should not accept testing documents that are incomplete or inaccurate.

As noted above, mechanical release detection equipment cannot be repaired. If mechanical release detection equipment fails to function at any time, it must be replaced with continuous electronic release detection equipment. Evaluation staff will verify whether UPAs are enforcing this requirement during upcoming evaluations.

For more information regarding test results, please contact: Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or [Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov)

## ICC Renewal Application

As a reminder, the renewal process for the California UST Inspector (UI) certification is now online. Beginning March 2026, ICC (International Code Council) will no longer accept paper applications or checks. Any paper applications and checks received will be returned to the applicant, who will be notified of the online renewal process. For additional guidance, please refer to the [How do I renew my California UST Inspector \(UI\) Certification? - ICC Support Portal](#)<sup>2</sup> webpage.

For additional information regarding ICC, contact: [customersuccess@iccsafe.org](mailto:customersuccess@iccsafe.org)

## Collection of Personal Information – UST Forms

Civil Code section 1798.17 requires a Privacy Notice on Collection be provided when personal information, such as names, phone numbers, and addresses, is collected on State forms. The 2026 edition of the [UST Reporting and Inspection forms](#)<sup>3</sup> has been updated to include this Privacy Notice on Collection as the final page of each applicable document to comply with this requirement. While the State Water Board must include the Notice with the new forms, the Notice itself is not subject to the submittal and recordkeeping requirements in Title 23, section 2613.

For additional information regarding Privacy Notice on Collection, contact: Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or [Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov)

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<sup>2</sup> [https://support.iccsafe.org/ht\\_kb/renewal/how-do-i-renew-my-california-ust-inspector-ui-certification/](https://support.iccsafe.org/ht_kb/renewal/how-do-i-renew-my-california-ust-inspector-ui-certification/)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/publications/forms.html>