



Underground Storage Tank Program

October 2026 Update

Stand-Alone Sensors at Facilities Not Routinely Staffed

Facilities that are not routinely staffed and have pressurized piping connected to underground storage tanks (USTs) must have continuous interstitial release detection equipment programmed to shut off the pressure pump when a release from the piping is detected or if the release detection system malfunctions.

The State Water Board Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff recently observed a facility where stand-alone under-dispenser containment (UDC) sensors were configured to meet the turbine shut off and fail-safe requirements. A relay was added to each dispenser, allowing the dispenser hook signal in combination with the stand-alone sensor to shut off power to the turbines.

This configuration may not be appropriate for all facilities. However, it demonstrates that stand-alone sensors may be capable of meeting the requirements in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16 (UST Regulations), section 2652(a)(1)(C). The State Water Board's observation of this configuration should not be interpreted as approval or a recommendation of this specific method. Applicability will depend on the equipment and configuration of the facility.

Owners and operators must consult with the Unified Program Agency (UPA) regarding permitting and inspection requirements, and with the release detection equipment manufacturer regarding installation instructions and safety precautions.

For questions regarding stand-alone UDC sensors, contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

UST Statutory Provisions of Assembly Bill 2776 and Senate Bill 795

Assembly Bill (AB) 2776 and Senate Bill (SB) 795 were recently signed into law and amend Health and Safety Code, chapter 6.7 (H&SC) provisions related to UST compliance timelines, monitoring requirements, and compatibility requirements for gasoline containing ethanol up to 15 percent (E15).

[AB 2776](#)

AB 2776 amends H&SC, sections 25288(d) and 25290.1(e), effective January 1, 2027. The complete text of AB 2776 is available [here](#).¹ The amendments modify compliance timeframes and vacuum, pressure, or hydrostatic (VPH) monitoring requirements. Additional information will be provided by the State Water Board in upcoming program notifications and local guidance letters.

H&SC, section 25288(d) now requires all Class I or Class II violations to return to compliance within 30 days of receiving the inspection report. The UPA may approve an extension for the return to compliance if the owner or operator submits a plan to the UPA within 30 days of receiving the inspection report.

H&SC section 25290.1(e) now specifies that the buried portions of a UST must be monitored by VPH. Unburied product piping is no longer required to be monitored by VPH.

[SB 795](#)

The [October 2025 State Water Board Letter](#)² discussed the signing of AB 30, which permitted the sale of E15 in California. [SB 795](#)³ adds section 25299.9 to H&SC, which requires the equipment manufacturer to submit a statement of compatibility for enhanced vapor control system suitable for gasoline containing up to 10 percent (E10) to be deemed certified for use with E15. The manufacturer's statement must indicate that the equipment has been determined to be safe for use with gasoline containing up to 15 percent ethanol. This provision does not eliminate existing UST requirements for owners and operators to demonstrate compatibility of the UST system with the substance stored.

H&SC section 25299.9 remains in effect until January 1, 2029, at which time it is repealed. Additionally, the bill requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt regulations governing labeling for E10 through E15 compatible vapor control systems and components.

For additional information regarding H&SC amendments, contact Tom Henderson at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

¹ https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/bills/ca_202520260ab2776

² <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/docs/2025/ust-e15-letter.pdf>

³ https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/bills/ca_202520260sb795

Results in UST Testing Report Forms

As discussed in the [June 2026 UST Program Update](#)⁴, UST forms document the condition of the system at the time of the initial test or inspection. Service technicians must record the initial test results on the forms. If repairs are performed, the comments section must describe the repairs and any subsequent passing test.

UPAs cannot require service technicians to revise the UST test forms to replace the initial test results with subsequent results obtained after repairs. The initial test results must remain documented on the form.

Accurate documentation of initial results is also important for United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Technical Compliance Rate (TCR) reporting, as test failures often result in TCR violations. TCR performance measures are based on facility conditions at the start of the inspection. Even if a violation is corrected during the inspection, it must still be cited on the inspection report and reported to CERS.

For additional information regarding test results in UST testing report forms, contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 327-5612.

UST Reporting Requirements and Submission Deadlines

UST Regulations section 2692 outlines two reports that UPAs must submit to the State Water Board. The first reporting requirement is the Semi-Annual UST Program Report (Report 6), due March 1 and September 1 of every year. This report includes TCR information, USTs with red tags applied, total number of field constructed tanks, abandoned USTs, and temporarily closed USTs.

The second reporting requirement is the Facility Compliance Inspection Report, which is due no later than January 31 of each year. The UPA must identify UST facilities that were not inspected during the previous calendar year and provide the reason the annual compliance inspection was not performed.

State Water Board evaluation staff will issue an incidental finding or deficiency to any UPA that submits either report after the applicable deadline. Because the State Water Board provides this information to the U.S. EPA, it is important that UPAs accurately submit the required reports by the applicable deadline.

For additional information on Report 6 and Facility Compliance Inspection reporting, contact Magnolia Busse at (916) 341-5870 or Magnolia.Busse@waterboards.ca.gov.

⁴ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/updates/docs/2026/june2026_ust_revised.pdf

Designated UST Operator Visual Inspection Report Form Signatures

State Water Board staff are aware of instances in which the Designated UST Operator Visual Inspection Report Form is either not signed or is signed by facility personnel who have not been designated as a responsible party through the UST Owner/Operator Agreement.

The acknowledgment of inspection results must be signed by the facility owner or operator, signifying that they have reviewed the inspection results of the report and are responsible for addressing any identified compliance issues. In accordance with section 2631(j), the report form must be acknowledged and signed by the owner or operator within 72 hours of being provided. Digital signatures that include a time-stamped digital certificate are acceptable to meet this signature requirement.

For additional information on Designated UST Operator Visual inspection Report Form requirements, contact Kaitlin Cottrell at Kaitlin.Cottrell@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 319-0742.

CERS FAQ Website

The State Water Board staff is continuing to update the [CERS Business User FAQs Website](#)⁵ to align with the amended UST Regulations. The following FAQs have been updated along with their associated citations:

[Are hard copies of UST documents required to be kept on site?](#)

The hard copy requirements have been updated, including the requirement for written approval by the Unified Program Agency.

[Which UST document must be uploaded?](#)

Document upload requirements have been updated.

[How should a BOE number be reported?](#)

Reporting requirements for each facility's Board of Equalization number has been updated.

[When should repairs and new USTs be reported in CERS?](#)

Reporting requirements for new USTs and repairs have been updated.

[How should tank contents be reported in CERS?](#)

Tank content reporting has been updated.

[Reporting abandoned USTs](#)

The definition for "abandoned UST" has been updated.

⁵ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/cers/

[Making a submittal from a previous submittal](#)

Making a submittal from a previous submittal has been updated.

[What are the general reporting requirements for UST sites?](#)

The annual CERS UST default submittal date has been updated.

[Notice to close single wall USTs](#)

This notice has been permanently removed.

[Common CERS reporting errors](#)

This FAQ has been permanently removed.

For more information regarding CERS FAQs, please contact Stephanie Duong at (916) 322-8544 or Stephanie.Duong@waterboards.ca.gov.