XX. Class A, B and C Operator Requirements and Certifications

(1) Effective August 8, 2012, every owner shall ensure that at least one Class A, B and C operator certified in accordance with 310 CMR XX is assigned to each underground storage tank system.

(a) An individual may be designated as a Class A, Class B, or Class C operator or any combination of the three (3) classes.

(b) An individual may be designated as a Class A, Class B, or Class C operator for more than one UST system or UST facility.

(2) The owner and operator shall ensure that a Class A, B or C operator is present on-site at all times an underground storage tank facility is staffed or open for business.

(a) If an UST facility is closed or unstaffed, a Class A, B or C operator does not have to be present at the facility, but the Class A, B and C operators are still responsible for operation and maintenance activities or responding to emergencies and shall be certified in accordance with 310 CMR XX(7) or (8).

(3) If a different Class A, B or C operator needs to be designated for any reason including but not limited to resignation or termination, the owner shall designate the appropriate Class A, B or C operator within seven (7) days of the position being vacated.

(4) Class A Operator Requirements

(a) A Class A operator shall have general knowledge and understanding of underground storage tank systems and regulatory requirements at 310 CMR XX including, but not limited to:

1. Leak detection;
2. Spill prevention;
3. Overfill prevention;
4. Corrosion protection;
5. Emergency response procedures;
6. Product compatibility;
7. Financial responsibility documentation requirements;
8. Registration and other notification requirements;
9. Reporting and record keeping requirements;
10. UST testing requirements;
11. Temporary and permanent closure requirements; and
12. Class B operator qualifications, training and examination requirements and Class C operator qualifications and training requirements.

(b) A Class A operator ensures that appropriate individuals:

1. Properly operate and maintain the underground storage tank system;
2. Maintain appropriate records;
3. Are trained to operate and maintain the underground storage tank system and keep records;
4. Properly respond to emergencies caused by leaks or releases from underground storage tank systems.
5. Make financial responsibility documents available to the Department as required.

(5) Class B Operator Requirements

(a) A Class B operator shall have knowledge and understanding of operation and maintenance requirements and regulatory requirements at 310 CMR XX that apply to underground storage tank systems, including but not limited to:

1. Leak detection;
2. Spill prevention;
3. Overfill prevention;
4. Corrosion protection;
5. Emergency response procedures;
6. Product compatibility;
7. Financial responsibility documentation requirements;
8. Registration and other notification requirements;
9. Reporting and record keeping requirements;
10. UST testing requirements;
11. Temporary and permanent closure requirements; and
12. Class C operator qualification and training requirements.

(b) A Class B operator implements the day-to-day aspects of operation and maintenance of, and recordkeeping for, underground storage tank systems and shall have general and site specific knowledge of the following:

1. Components of underground storage tank systems.
2. Materials of underground storage tank system components.
3. Methods of release detection and release prevention applied to the underground storage tank system.

(6) Class C Operator Requirements

(a) A Class C operator shall have specific knowledge of the layout of the UST system(s), emergency procedures and how to respond to alarms.

(b) A Class C operator shall:

1. Immediately respond to alarms or other indications of emergencies caused by leaks or releases from underground storage tank system.
2. Notify a Class A or Class B operator and appropriate emergency responders when necessary.

(c) A Class C operator shall be an employee of the underground storage tank facility, but not all employees of the facility are necessarily Class C operators.

(7) Certification Requirements for Class A and B Operators

(a) Class A and B operators shall be certified within thirty (30) days after being designated by the owner to assume operation and maintenance responsibilities of the underground storage tank system.

(b) In order for a Class A or B operator to be certified, s/he shall:

1. Complete training in accordance with 310 CMR XX(7)(c), (d) and (j); and
2. Take and pass an operator examination in accordance with 310 CMR XX(7)(e)-(j), inclusive.
(c) Class A and B operators shall be trained on the specific UST system(s) for which they are responsible. Said training shall be in accordance with 310 CMR XX (4) and (5) and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Types of tanks, piping, overfill prevention, leak detection and corrosion protection.
2. Operation and maintenance of the underground storage tank system.
3. Testing, reporting and recordkeeping requirements.
4. Financial responsibility documentation requirements.
5. Emergency response.

(d) The owner and operator shall attest that Class A and B operators have received training that complies with 310 CMR XX(7)(c). The owner and operator shall keep the attestation in accordance with 310 CMR XX (recordkeeping).

(e) Class A and B operators shall take and pass an operator examination, as provided by the Department, based on their respective responsibilities in 310 CMR XX (4) and (5).

(f) Upon successful passage of the operator examination, the operator shall receive and keep in accordance with 310 CMR XX (recordkeeping), a certificate indicating passage of the operator examination.

(g) Class A and B operators shall re-take and pass the operator examination every three years. The certification shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of the passage of the operator examination.

(h) Failure to re-take and pass the operator examination before the three (3) years lapses shall result in the Class A or B operator not being certified.

(i) If an individual takes and fails any operator examination three (3) times within six (6) months, s/he shall wait an additional six (6) months from the third failure to re-take any operator examination.

(j) If a certified Class A or B operator transfers to another company s/he shall be re-trained in accordance with 310 CMR XX(7)(c) and (d) in order to maintain his/her certification, but does not have to re-take the operator examination until the required re-certification in accordance with 310 CMR (7)(g) and (h).

(8) Certification Requirements for Class C Operators
(a) A Class C operator shall be certified before being designated by the owner.

(b) In order to be certified as a Class C operator, an individual shall be trained by a Class A or B operator who is employed at the same UST facility to take action in response to emergencies or alarms caused by leaks or releases from an underground storage tank system in accordance with 310 CMR XX(6).

(c) When the training is complete the trainer and the Class C operator shall each sign a log at the facility attesting that the training was completed in accordance 310 CMR XX(8)(b) and (c). The owner and operator shall keep a copy of the log in accordance with 310 CMR XX(recordkeeping)

(d) The Class C operator shall be re-trained every 12 months in accordance with 310 CMR XX(8)(b) and (c).

(e) If a Class C operator transfers to another UST facility s/he shall be re-trained in accordance with 310 CMR XX(8) in order to maintain his/her certification.

(9) A list of the Class A, B and C operator(s) for each UST system or facility shall be maintained in accordance with 310 CMR XX (recordkeeping). This list shall include, but not be limited to the hiring date or contract date, the date of his/her most recent training and for Class A and B operators the date of his/her most recent successful passage of the operator examination.

(10) If the Department determines that an UST system is out of compliance with 310 CMR XX, the Department may require that one or more Class A, B or C operator(s) be re-trained and/or re-take the operator examination.