MassDEP
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection

Underground Storage Tank Program Fact Sheet

MassDEP Third-Party Inspector (TPI) Certification *Renewal*

https://www.mass.gov/how-to/massdep-ust-third-party-inspector-certification-or-renewal

MassDEP certifies UST TPIs for a period of three years. If a TPI wishes to renew, an application must be submitted to MassDEP's UST Program as described, below.

Application Process

1. **Submit 90 days before expiration date**. Please note that certifications are *automatically extended* **if** a third-party inspector files a renewal application at least 90 days before the expiration date. This automatic extension remains in effect until MassDEP:
    - *Issues* the new certification, **or**
    - *Denies the application for renewal, **or***
    - *Suspends or revokes* the extended certification

2. **Application Form.** Complete the renewal form located on MassDEP's UST web page, here: TPI Certification Renewal.
    - Include: annual training documentation (described below).
    - Include: documentation showing six or more third-party inspections within the prior three-year certification period.

Training Options for Third Party Inspector Certification Renewal

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Underground Storage Tank (UST) Third Party Inspection (TPI) certification renewal process includes an annual training component. The list below has been approved by MassDEP as allowable training options. Third Party Inspectors who are seeking renewal must choose **one** of the training options listed below per certification cycle and keep records showing registration and completion of training. Please note that training documentation must be submitted as part of the TPI certification renewal application which occurs every three years.

Option #1. Maine Underground Storage Tank Inspector Certification

The Maine UST Tank Inspector Certification is an on-line training program offered by the state of Maine. Maine requires annual tank inspections conducted by inspectors who are certified by this program. The initial certification and renewal process each satisfy **three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements. For registration information, please click on this link: Maine UST Inspector Certification.

(1. A) Initial Certification: on-line training, plus in-person open book multiple choice exam (includes Maine's regulatory requirements). Note: this option **satisfies three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements – this means that once the initial

certification is obtained, MassDEP's training requirement has been met for a total of three consecutive years. **Fee: $250** exam and certification

(1. B) Renewal: must demonstrate having obtained eight (8) hours of Board approved continuing education credits and pay the appropriate fee. Note: this option **satisfies three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements – this means that once the initial renewal is obtained, MassDEP's training requirement has been met for a total of three consecutive years. **Fee: $150** recertification.

Additional Required Certifications. The state of Maine requires the following additional certifications to be certified as a Maine UST Inspector:

- Third-party cathodic protection tester certification is required to conduct the cathodic protection tester portion of the annual inspection.
- Demonstration Certification by the manufacturers of leak detection equipment is required to annually inspect specific brands and models of equipment.

Option #2. Maine Fall Training Workshops

Any MassDEP certified TPI, including those who do not have Maine UST Tank Inspector Certification, have the option to attend Fall Training Workshops put on by the Maine Board of Underground Storage Tank Installers and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Attending **two** of these workshops **satisfies three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements. Please see Maine's List of Training and Related Events Page or contact Matthew Shank at matthew.shank@maine.gov for information about when the yearly workshop will be held. **Fee: $75** per workshop.

Option #3. National ICC UST Certification.

The ICC certification includes four units of study and exams are taken in-person at Pearson testing centers. **One (1) unit per year** satisfies DEP's annual training requirement. This means a **total of three (3) units** satisfies training requirements for three years. **Fees: $130** per exam. For more information, please review the description at this link: ICC UST Certification.

A passing result from the following ICC UST offerings meet the annual training requirement:
Exam Catalogue - ICC (iccsafe.org)
U1 UST Installation/Retrofitting
U2 UST Decommissioning
U3 UST Tank Tightness Testing
U4 UST Cathodic Protection*****

Note that the following study materials are used:

- Operating and Maintaining Underground Storage Tank Systems, August 2000 (EPA 510-K-16-001) 2016
- PEI/RP 100 (2011) Recommended Practices for Installation of Underground Liquid Storage Systems
- PEI/RP300 (2009) Recommended Practices for Installation and Testing of Vapor Recovery Systems at Vehicle Fueling Sites

*Note that if the TPI has a current and valid Steel Tank Institute (STI)/Steel Plate Fabricators Association (SPFA) certification as an authorized Underground Storage Tank Cathodic Protection Tester, that certification can substitute for the U4 UST Cathodic Protection exam and **satisfy one (1) unit.**

Option #4. UST Inspector Course National Petroleum Training Institute (NPTI)

The NPTI UST Inspector Course. The NPTI UST inspector course is an in-person 5-day training offered four times per year. This option satisfies a total of **six (6) consecutive years** of MassDEP's annual training requirement for UST TPIs. This course prepares experienced tank personnel with the specific requirements and tasks necessary for compliance inspection of existing USTs. Details of required inspection items, along with necessary tools and site work are reviewed. Although this course is organized to follow the Maryland Department of the Environment's Inspection Report, this class is intended for UST inspectors across the U.S. Please click on this link for more information: UST Inspector Course – NPTI (nptinstitute.com). **Fees**: Course and exam **$1,950**.

Option #5. Pennsylvania Underground Storage Tank Inspector Certification

Pennsylvania certifies individuals as "Inspector, Underground Storage Tank Systems and Facilities" ("IUM"). Pennsylvania requires that registered UST facilities are inspected every 3 years by a certified IUM. The initial certification and renewal process each satisfy **three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements. Note that both options have in-person components.

(5. A) Initial Certification: Those who wish to become an IUM must pass an exam administered by Pennsylvania and have:

- 4 years' experience, or college degree and 2 years' experience;
- Department approved tank tightness testing familiarization or Underground Storage Tank System Tightness Tester (UTT) Certification;
- UMX (Underground Storage Tank System Installation & Modification) Certification; and
- Corrosion Protection Training.

Note: this option, initially obtaining an IUM certification, **satisfies three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements – this means that once the initial certification is obtained, MassDEP's training requirement has been met for a total of three consecutive years. **Fee: $75** exam. For registration information, please click on this link: Pennsylvania Initial IUM Certification.

(5. B) Renewal: To renew an IUM certification, inspectors must attend a 3.5 hour in-person training put on by Pennsylvania and pay the appropriate fee. Note: this option, renewing an IUM certification, **satisfies three (3) consecutive years** of MassDEP's UST TPI annual training requirements – this means that once the renewal is obtained, MassDEP's training requirement has been met for a total of three consecutive years. There is no fee for IUM certification renewal. For registration information, please click on this link: Pennsylvania Renewal IUM Certification.