

When do the regulations come into effect?

The regulations come into force in three stages:

- 1/ New tanks installed after 1 April 2006 will have to comply by 1 October 2006.
- 2/ Existing tanks within 10 metres of surface water or 50 metres of a borehole or well will have to comply by 1 April 2008.
- 3/ Remaining existing tanks will have to comply by 1 April 2010.

Is any oil storage not covered by the regulations?

- Oil stored in accordance with a Part A authorisation / permit under the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations 2000, or the Environmental Protection (Prescribed Processes and Substances) Regulations 1991.
- Uncut bitumen.
- Oil stored at an oil distribution depot for the onward distribution of oil to other places.
- New and replacement single domestic oil tanks of less than 2500 litres (these are covered by requirements of Building Regulations (Scotland) 2004).

How will the regulations be enforced?

SEPA is responsible for enforcing the regulations in Scotland. If you are concerned that your oil storage facilities may be inadequate, we will provide advice and guidance to assist you with compliance. However if you fail to act, we may serve an enforcement notice requiring that the facilities be brought up to standard, or will seek prosecution for non-compliance with the regulations. Failure to comply is a criminal offence, and could result in a fine of up to £40,000.

For further information on the oil storage regulations, please visit: www.sepa.org.uk or www.netregs.gov.uk or contact your local SEPA office.

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OIL STORAGE REGULATIONS

Your questions answered

Background

Every year in Scotland there are over 250 recorded water pollution incidents caused by oil. Oil is toxic and poisons watercourse plants and animals. A significant proportion of the pollution incidents are attributed to poor oil storage. In order to address this, regulations have been drawn up detailing how oil must be stored to minimise the risk of oil pollution arising from this activity.

What do the regulations cover?

- New and existing above ground oil storage facilities
- Storage in drums, intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and mobile bowers, including storage in portable containers of less than 200 litres
- Oil storage within buildings
- Domestic oil tanks larger than 2500 litres

The regulations only apply in Scotland. (Separate regulations are in force in England- please contact the Environment Agency for further information.)

The range of premises covered by the regulations is wide and includes: factories, shops, offices, hotels, schools, construction sites, farms, motor garages and transport depots.

Which types of oils are covered?

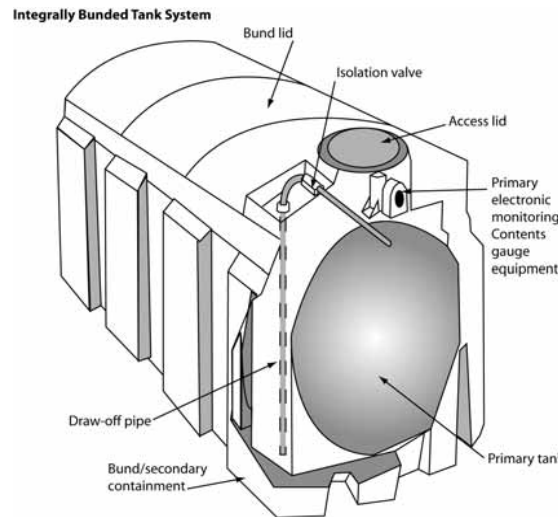
All types of oil, including petrol, diesel, mineral oil, heating oil, lubricating oil, waste oil, vegetable and plant oil, agricultural fuel oil and bitumen based products which are liquid at normal ambient temperatures.

What are the key requirements of the regulations?

- The regulations set design standards for new and existing above ground oil storage facilities (these include fixed tanks, intermediate bulk containers, drums or mobile bowers).
- Where oil is stored in a portable container of less than 200 litres capacity, the container must be of sufficient strength and structural integrity to ensure that it is unlikely to burst or leak in ordinary use.
- Where the storage container capacity is 200 litres or more, there are additional prescriptive requirements to be met such as:
 - If possible, the oil container should be positioned to avoid damage (such as impact from any vehicles) or suitably protected by physical means.
 - A secondary containment system (such as a bund or drip tray) must be provided to catch any oil leaking from the container or its ancillary pipework and equipment.

- The bund must be sufficient to contain at least 110% of the maximum contents of the oil container.
- Where more than one container is stored, the bund should be capable of storing at least 110% of the largest tank or at least 25% of the total storage capacity, whichever is the greater.
- The bund base and walls must be impermeable to water and oil and checked regularly for leaks.
- Any valve, filter, sight gauge, vent pipe or other ancillary equipment must be kept within the bund when not in use.
- Above ground pipework must be properly supported.
- Below ground pipework must be protected from physical damage and have adequate leakage detection. If mechanical joints have to be used, they should be readily accessible for inspection.

The detailed requirements are specified in the regulations.



Typical arrangements for fixed oil storage tanks consistent with best practice guidance

