

Oil Storage Regulations

Introduction

Oil is a major threat to the environment; in fact a sixth of all pollution incidents that affect the environment involve oil. The construction industry stores and uses large quantities of oil and the associated risks need to be managed.

Why is oil pollution so bad?

Economic impact...

- Fines.
- Clean-up costs.
- Replacement costs (e.g. fish).
- Company reputation

Solution.

The Environment Agency believes that the best way to tackle oil pollution is with prevention rather than cure.

This is where the 'Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations, 2001' come into action.

Environmental impact...

- Approximately 5000 incidents per year, a sixth affecting the environment, most incidents are caused by oil leaking from tanks during storage and delivery.
- Prevents industrial and recreational use.
- It is toxic to wildlife.
- Aesthetically unpleasant.

How are the regulations enforced?

The Environment Agency enforces these Regulations throughout England. If you have concerns regarding how your oil storage will meet the Regulations, you can approach the Environment Agency for assistance and guidance.

⇒ **However**, if you fail to act within the specified timescales, the Environment Agency will serve a notice requiring that all oil storage is brought up to standard.

⇒ **Failure** to comply with a notice is a criminal offence and will result in prosecution.

Although these Regulations apply only in England, they are best practice, and should be used in all Carillion operations.

Implementation Timescale

- Regulations came into affect on 1st September 2001.
- New tanks must comply from 1st March 2002.
- 'High risk' (oil storage located within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a well or bore) by 1st September 2003.
- Everything else by 1st September 2005.

Remember...

If unsure always seek advice from your Environmental Co-ordinator or Environmental Advisor.

Useful Links.

- www.hms.gov.uk – use search facility for full copy of Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations, 2001.
- www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/ppg/?version=1 – copy of the Pollution Prevention Guidelines for oil storage regulations, PPG02 and PPG26.
- www.defra.gov.uk/environment/wqd/oilstore/pdf/oil_store.pdf - DEFRA guidelines note on the oil regulations.
- www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs/27507/275441 - Advice on oil.

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Principal Requirements.

The Regulations have a set of general guidelines that must be followed:

Primary Container:

- ✓ Container defined as fixed tank, drum, mobile browser or Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC)
- ✓ Container must be fit for purpose & of sufficient strength.

Secondary Container:

- ✓ Includes tanks, mobile browsers, IBC's – 110% total capacity of the container.
- ✓ Drums – 25% of each drum.

Location:

- ✓ Position storage facilities safely.
- ✓ Use collision barriers or take other steps to minimise risk of impact.

Secondary containment:

- ✓ Must be impermeable to oil and water.
- ✓ Have no drain valves.
- ✓ Pipes passing through wall must be adequately sealed.

Ancillary equipment, fill and draw pipes.

- ✓ Ancillary equipment (e.g. valves, filter, sight gauge, vent pipe) must be situated within the secondary containment.
- ✓ Fill pipes should preferably be inside the bund but where unavoidably outside, a drip tray must be used.

SEE the Carillion Oil Storage Tanks Checklist to be sure that you meet all the Regulations.

