

CONSUMPTIVE USE HEATING OIL TANKS & DIESEL-FUELED GENERATOR TANKS

A “consumptive use” heating oil tank is one that is connected to a boiler or furnace that is used to heat a building interior. Heating oil tanks leak just like gasoline tanks, and when these tanks leak, they can pose a significant threat to Maine’s drinking water supplies. For this reason, the State of Maine regulates all underground tanks, including heating oil tanks.

If you own or operate a consumptive use heating oil tank, you must comply with the rules that apply to your tank system and the type of fuel stored in that system. (See: www.maine.gov/deprwm/ust/plaintalkonheatingoil.htm.) However, consumptive use heating oil tanks are not part of the UST operator program and are not required to have Class A/B and Class C operators.

A diesel-powered emergency generator that is fueled with heating oil is not a consumptive use heating oil storage system. Although the fuel stored is heating oil, the tank is connected to an engine, not a boiler or furnace. For purposes of the UST operator program, your tank is considered a motor-fuel tank if it is connected to a generator, even if the fuel in the tank is heating oil. Underground tanks connected to generators, no matter what fuel is stored in the tank, must have Class A/B and Class C operators.

If your underground tank is connected to a diesel generator, you must check your facility registration to be sure it is registered as a tank with “DIESEL” for the fuel type, not “#2 FUEL OIL.” If you have a generator tank that indicates #2 FUEL OIL as the tank contents, you must notify the DEP that your tank is connected to a generator so your registration can be corrected to accurately reflect the fuel usage and you can receive the appropriate *TankSmart* modules. Please allow a minimum of 10 days after notifying the DEP before attempting to take the Class A/B Operator Certification test. This will allow the DEP to update your records so the *TankSmart* program can provide you with the correct test questions.

A “consumptive use” heating oil tank is one that is connected to a boiler or furnace that is used to heat a building interior.

Your tank is considered a motor-fuel tank if it is connected to a generator, even if the fuel in the tank is heating oil.

For more information on consumptive use heating oil tanks that are connected to boilers or furnaces, contact the DEP’s Tanks Unit at 207-287-2651 or review the document *Plain Talk on Heating Oil Tanks* at: www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/ust/plaintalkonheatingoil.htm.