

OPERATIONAL CONTROL PROCEDURE – 5



STORAGE

OIL STORAGE

LEGISLATION

Oil and diesel storage is regulated by the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage)(England) Regulation 2001 (SI 2001 No. 2954) that came into force on 1 March 2002

REGULATOR

The Environment Agency

IMPLICATIONS

A fine may be imposed on the Company or individuals of £5,000 for non compliance and of up to £20,000 and / or a 6-month prison term for causing a pollution event

From April 2010 the EA obtained the power to apply civil sanctions to non compliance of the Oil Storage Regulations under the Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010.

BEST PRACTICE

This legislation applies to all sites with quantities of oil or diesel greater than 200 litres if it poses a 'significant risk'. A significant risk if it is within 10m of a watercourse or 50 m of a borehole. Waste mineral oil is now included in the legislation.

Osborne requires all oil storage to be compliant with the regulations

Further guidance is available in the EA guidance PPG 6

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/PMHO0410BSGN-e-e.pdf>

DRUMS

The Environment Agency require the drum to be within a bund or 'secondary containment system' capable of containing 110% of the quantity. If there is more than one drum then the bund should be capable of containing 110% of the biggest tank's capacity or 25% of the total capacity, whichever is the greater

It must be stored in a place that minimises the risk of pollution; away from surface water drains and culverts and a minimum of 10m from a river or ditch. The base and walls must be impermeable and not penetrated by any pipes or drainage system.

FIXED TANK

The bunded tank must have a sight gauge, properly supported and fixed with a valve that is automatically closed when not in use and positioned out of harms way. It must be properly supported and adequately protected from corrosion. The fill pipe should be fitted with an automatic overfill prevention device with a screw coupling or other fixed coupling to fill the tank. If delivered through a flexible pipe, there must be an automatic cut off system, closed when not in use and not capable of being fixed open. The pipe must be either enclosed in a secure cabinet with a drip tray or have a

lockable valve where it leaves the container that is locked shut when not in use and be kept within the containment system. Any pump set must be fitted with a non-return valve in the feed line, positioned as to minimise any impact and protected from unauthorised use. There must be permanent vent pipes, taps, discharge point must be located within the containment system, arranged to discharge vertically downwards within the system and fitted with a lock and locked shut when not in use.

MOBILE BOWSERS

All valves and taps must be fitted with a lock and locked shut when not in use. The flexible delivery pipes must be fitted with a hand pump or valve that automatically closes when not in use and can be locked. The pipe must have a lockable valve at the end. Any sight gauge must be fitted with a lockable valve that is locked when not in use

Mobile bowzers are available from 200litres and above

LOCATION

It must NOT be located within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres from a borehole or well.

The EA can serve a notice requesting compliance. If not carried out (and no appeal sought) the statutory maximum fine can be applied (£5 000 in a magistrates court or unlimited in a crown court)

It is sensible to roof or integrally bund tanks to prevent rainwater ingress, if not possible consider a sump that can be pumped out by hand but will not discharge contaminated water.

Mobile bowzers may not all comply with the regulations; it is advisable to obtain written confirmation from the supplier or subcontractor before allowing them on your site.

Double skinned tanks are not sufficient to comply they need to be 'integrally bundled'

FILLING THE TANK

Before you order an oil delivery:

- check how much oil is in the tank,
- Work out the spare capacity
- decide how much oil you need but make sure you don't over order.

Supervise all deliveries

DISPOSAL

In England and Wales, waste contaminated with oil is classed as hazardous waste unless you can show there is under 0.1% oil.