
State Water Resources Control Board

October 29, 2025

Unified Program Agencies and Underground Storage Tank Owners and Operators

STORAGE OF GASOLINE CONTAINING UP TO 15 PERCENT ETHANOL

Effective October 2, 2025, Health and Safety Code has been amended to allow the sale of gasoline blends containing up to 15 percent ethanol by volume (E15) in California (Stats. 2025, ch. 247 ([Assembly Bill 30](#))). This gasoline blend will be made available alongside existing ethanol blend gasoline, subject to compliance with all other existing UST Leak Prevention requirements. This letter serves as a reminder that underground storage tank (UST) owners and operators must submit compatibility documentation to their Unified Program Agency (UPA) 30 days prior to storing E15.

Currently about 5,000 fiberglass tanks manufactured before April 1, 1990 ([Xerxes](#)) or July 1, 1990 ([Owens Corning](#)) cannot store gasoline blends greater than 10 percent ethanol (E10) based on the manufacturer's statement of compatibility. Please note that the dates above are the tank *manufacture* dates, not the *installation* dates as found in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). If the UST owner or operator does not have documentation noting the manufacture date of the tank, this information may be found on the UL label attached to the nose end of the tank.

The State Water Resources Control Board is aware of commonly used turbines and line leak detectors that only are compatible with ethanol blends up to E10. Prior to the 2000s, many piping manufacturers did not make their products compatible with alcohol. Several manufacturers are no longer in business and cannot provide a manufacturer's statement of compatibility. It is unclear how many of these piping systems exist since CERS data does not provide the manufacturer of the pipe or the date of installation. In addition to the tank and piping, all components used to construct the UST primary containment system, including special accessories, fittings, coatings, or linings must be approved by an independent testing organization (ITO), typically UL, to demonstrate that the components are compatible with the substance to be stored. Similarly, release detection equipment must be approved by an independent third-party, to demonstrate that the equipment is functional and compatible with the substance monitored. If the ITO or independent third-party approvals do not include the component's compatibility for the substance, the manufacturer must provide a statement of compatibility identifying a specific product as compatible with the substance to be stored.

UST owners or operators considering storing E15 must verify that all components that can contact the product stored are compatible in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16, section 2610 et seq. UST owners and

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operators must provide the UPA with documents confirming all components of their systems are compatible with E15 30 days prior to commencing storage of E15. Any component for which compatibility cannot be demonstrated must be replaced with a compatible component before storage of the new substance can begin.

Component	Required Compatibility Documentation
Primary containment with integral secondary containment	• ITO approval for hazardous substance; or • ITO approval and manufacturer's statement of compatibility (if hazardous substance is not covered by ITO approval)
Release detection equipment	• Independent third-party approval for hazardous substance; or • Manufacturer's statement of compatibility (if hazardous substance not covered by independent third-party approval)
Non-integral secondary containment	• ITO approval for hazardous substance; • ITO approval and manufacturer's statement of compatibility (if hazardous substance is not covered by ITO approval); or • Engineer specification demonstrating compatibility, or • Industry or engineering standard demonstrating compatibility
Spill containment, overfill prevention equipment, ancillary equipment	• ITO approval for hazardous substance; • Manufacturer's statement of compatibility (if hazardous substance not covered by ITO approval); • Approval by California registered professional engineer; or • Industry or engineering standard demonstrating compatibility

Additional information regarding E15 can be found on the California Air Resources Board [website](#). For questions regarding E15 gasoline in new and existing UST systems, please contact me at (916) 319-9128 or Tom.Henderson@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Henderson
Supervisor, UST Leak Prevention Unit and Tank Tester Licensing
State Water Resources Control Board

cc: (email only)

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