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## State Water Resources Control Board

December 1, 2014

### DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDED REGULATION TO REQUIRE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS IN FLOOD PRONE AREAS BE ANCHORED, WEIGHTED OR SECURED BY APPROVED MEANS

To: Unified Program Agencies and Other Interested Parties

An amendment to the California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 5605 made by the Department of Industrial Relations became effective on October 1, 2014<sup>1</sup>. The amended regulation made changes to underground storage tanks (USTs) installed in areas that may be subjected to flooding. The modifications were necessary to ensure USTs would not, in the event of a flood, contribute to a release of hazardous materials or displacement of the UST which could result in contamination, fire, explosion, serious injury, or fatality of employees who could come in contact with the tank and or its product. As such, the amended regulations require that USTs in flood prone areas be anchored, weighted, or secured by an approved means.

USTs installed after October 1, 2014 and in areas that may be subjected to flooding, according to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps and flood zone definitions, must be installed in accordance with the provisions of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30-2012. Such tanks in areas subject to flooding as defined by FEMA, installed prior to October 1, 2014, must conform to either the provisions of NFPA 30-2012 or NFPA 30-1973, Appendix B. Both editions of NFPA 30 referenced above require that USTs in flood prone areas be anchored, weighted, or secured by an approved means. FEMA flood maps and flood zone definitions are found at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

For a complete text of this regulation, visit the WestlawNext website at [https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IE1181F70F28A11E3AF75C503DB27CF3E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IE1181F70F28A11E3AF75C503DB27CF3E?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)).

If you have questions regarding the implementation of this amendment please contact Eric Berg, Acting Principal Engineer, Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, at (510) 286-7010 or by email at [eberg@dir.ca.gov](mailto:eberg@dir.ca.gov) for all other UST questions please contact Cory Hootman at (916) 341-5668 or by email at [cory.hootman@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:cory.hootman@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura S. Fisher, Chief  
UST Leak Prevention and  
Office of Tank Tester Licensing

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<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations, title 8, section 5605 applies to both USTs and aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), however this letter only discusses USTs. For questions regarding ASTs, contact Kevin Reinertson, Regulations Coordinator at the Office of State Fire Marshal at (916) 327- 4998 or by email at [kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov](mailto:kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov).