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. 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
ext&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageltem&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 for all other UST questions please contact Cory
Hootman at (916) 341-5668 or by email at cory.hootman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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

1 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.