



Linda S. Adams  
Acting Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Water Quality

1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814 ♦ (916) 341-5782  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812-0100  
FAX (916) 341-5463 ♦ Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

May 17, 2011

### LG LETTER 164-2

### REPORTING OF SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL COMPLIANCE

Available electronically at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust)

To: Local Agencies

The purpose of this letter is to outline the reporting requirements of significant operational compliance (SOC) for underground storage tank (UST) facilities, and to transmit an updated copy of the SOC Matrices.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

SOC reporting is completed on a semiannual basis in conjunction with Report 6. CUPAs/PAs must submit Report 6, which includes SOC data, by March 1 for the previous July-December period and by September 1 for the previous January through July period.

The information required to be submitted in Report 6 is listed in Title 23, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 2713(c) and in Title 27, CCR, Section 15290 (b). Title 23, CCR refers to Report 6, but the form is actually contained in the Report 6 Appendix to Title 27, CCR. For your convenience the Report 6 form and instructions can be downloaded from the web links listed below:

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/forms/docs/report6\\_form\\_final.doc](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/forms/docs/report6_form_final.doc)

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ust/forms/docs/report6\\_instructions\\_final.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/forms/docs/report6_instructions_final.pdf)

### **SCOPE OF SOC REPORTING**

In view of the fact that the purpose of SOC is to assess nationwide compliance with the Federal program, the determination of what violation would be “significant” is based on Federal requirements. Therefore, we prepared a California version of the “significant” Federal requirements to include more stringent requirements imposed by the state. Even though certain California-only requirements may be “significant” to our program, they may not appear on the SOC matrices if there is no equivalent requirement in the Federal program.

*The United States Environmental Protection Agency has clarified that SOC should be*

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



determined based on the condition of the site when the inspector begins the compliance inspection. Even if a violation is corrected while the inspector is conducting the inspection, the facility would not be in SOC because it was not in SOC at the beginning of the inspection. For example, if at the time of the initial inspection, certain leak detection equipment is discovered to be non-operational yet is fixed or replaced during the inspection, the facility is not in SOC for reporting purposes. USEPA has made it clear that the facility must be in compliance with all relevant SOC items to be counted as "in SOC." SOC violations are not intended to be shared with Owner/Operators of UST facilities,

When determining compliance rates, a facility that does not comply with an SOC element on one matrix, but is in full compliance on the other matrix, will only be counted as being "in SOC" with the matrix in which that facility has met every element. To report "in SOC" for the Release Detection (RD) Matrix (Item 4a on Report 6), there will be no violations on the RD Matrix but there must be a violation on the Release Prevention (RP) Matrix and vice versa for "in SOC" on the RP matrix (Item 4b). If the facility does not meet every element on both the RD and RP matrices, the facility will not be counted as being "in SOC" for the combined measure and should be reported in Item 4d. If there are no violations of either matrices you will report "in SOC" in Item 4c.

Please do not confuse "significant operational compliance" with the term "significant violation" as used with regard to red tags. Although the word "significant" is used in both phrases, they are two separate concepts. One is a measure of compliance for tracking purposes and the other is a determination of the severity of a violation for enforcement purposes. It is the violations specified in the red tag regulations, not SOC measures, that are the basis for affixing red tags.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Terry Snyder at (916) 341-5385 or [tsnyder@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tsnyder@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



for

Kevin L. Graves, Manager  
Underground Storage Tank Program

Enclosure

# SOC Matrices for California

## Part I - Release Detection Matrix

A release detection method is present and operational. The release detection system meets minimum Federal performance standards. (See Requirements Below)

If underground storage tanks (USTs) are in temporary closure, release detection requirements are being met. (See Requirements Below)

The Local Agency has been notified of suspected releases as required. [Title 23, California Code of Regulation (CCR), section 2650] [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 280.40(b)]

Release detection records are available. (To be in significant operational compliance, must have records for the two most recent consecutive months and for 8 of the last 12 months.) [40 CFR, section 280.41(a), 280.45(b)]

Hazardous substance USTs are double-walled. [Title 23, CCR, section 2631(a)] [40 CFR, section 280.42(b)]

### **TANK Leak Detection Methods [40 CFR, section 280.43]**

#### **Interstitial Monitoring (includes traditional and vacuum, pressure, and hydrostatic (VPH) systems)**

Sensors are properly located to detect a release. [Title 23, CCR, section 2630(d), 2632(c), 2641(a)] [Health & Safety Code (H&SC), section 25290.1(e)] [40 CFR, section 280.43(g)(1), 280.43(g)(2), 280.40(a)(2)] AND

Sensors are operational. [Title 23, CCR, section 2638] [H&SC, section 25290.1(e)]

#### **Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR) [40 CFR, section 280.43(h)(1)-(2), 280.41(a)]**

SIR is performed properly. [Title 23, CCR, section 2646.1, 2643(b)(3), 2643.1] AND  
Biennial 0.1 gph tank integrity test performed properly. [Title 23, CCR, section 2646.1(g)] AND  
Non-passing results are reported and properly investigated. [Title 23, CCR, section 2646.1(d)(f)(h)]

#### **Automatic Tank Gauging [40 CFR, section 280.40(a)(1)-(2), 280.43(d)(1)]**

0.2 gph monthly tank gauging test performed. [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(b)(1)] OR  
0.1 gph monthly tank gauging test AND manual inventory reconciliation properly performed. [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(b)(2)]

#### **Manual Tank Gauging (for USTs with 1,000-gallon capacity or less) [40 CFR, section 280.43(b)(1) and (b)(3)-(5)]**

Weekly manual tank gauging performed properly. [Title 23, CCR, section 2645] AND  
If necessary, tank integrity test conducted. [Title 23, CCR, section 2645(d)(3)]

**Vadose Zone (Vapor) Monitoring** [40 CFR, section 280.43(e)(3)(6)]

Vadose zone monitoring system properly installed and monitored. [Title 23, CCR, section 2647, 2649]

**Ground Water Monitoring** [40 CFR, section 280.43(f)(2)(7)]

Ground water monitoring system properly installed and monitored. [Title 23, CCR, section 2648, 2649]

**PIPING Leak Detection Methods [40 CFR, section 280.44]**

**Double-Walled Pressurized Piping (includes traditional and VPH systems)** [40 CFR, section 280.40(a)(2), 280.43(g)(1)(2), 280.44(a)]

ALL three of the following:

Interstitial monitoring properly conducted. [Title 23, CCR, section 2636(f)(1)] [H&SC, section 25290.1(e)] AND

Line leak detector (LLD) present and operational. [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(c)(1)] AND  
LLD tested annually. [Title 23, CCR, section 2641(j)]

And ONE of the following:

LLD restricts or shuts off flow of product (for non-emergency generator systems). [Title 23, CCR, section 2636(f)(2)] OR

LLD activates an audible or visual alarm and the monitoring system is checked daily (emergency generator systems only). [Title 23, CCR, section 2636(f)(2)]

\*Note: Federal regulations do not require lines that are interstitially monitored to also be tightness tested.

**Double-Walled Suction Piping (includes traditional and VPH systems)**

Interstitial monitoring is conducted properly. [Title 23, CCR, section 2636(f)(1)] [H&SC, section 25290.1(e)] [40 CFR, section 280.40(a)(2), 280.43(g)(1)(2)]

**Single-Walled Pressurized Piping**

BOTH of the following: [40 C.F.R. § 280.44(a)]

3.0 gph LLD present and operational. [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(c)(1)] AND  
LLD tested annually. [Title 23, CCR, section 2638, 2641(j)]

In addition to one of the following:

0.1 gph line integrity test performed annually. [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(c)(3)] [40 CFR, section 280.40(a)(3), 280.41(b)(1)(ii)] OR

0.2 gph line integrity test performed monthly. [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(c)(2)] [40 CFR, section 280.41(b)(1)(ii), 280.44(c)]

## Single-Walled Suction Piping

0.1 gph line integrity test performed triennially (every 3 years). [Title 23, CCR, section 2643(d)] [40 CFR, section 280.40(a)(3), 280.41(b)(2)]

## Single-Walled Safe Suction Piping

Piping meets the safe suction requirements. [Title 23, CCR, section 2636(a)(3)(A) – (D)] [40 CFR, section 280.41(b)(2)(i) – (v)]

## Part II - Release Prevention Matrix

1. Spill container present and in good condition. [Title 23, CCR, section 2635(b)(1), 2665] [40 CFR, section 280.20(c)(1)(i), 280.21(d)]

2. The appropriate overfill prevention system is present and operational. [Title 23, CCR, section 2635(b)(2), 2665] [40 CFR, section 280.20(c)(1)(ii)(A)(B), 280.21(d)]

\*Note: Overfill prevention system requirement may be waived for USTs that meet the requirements of Title 23, CCR, section 2635(b)(3).

3. Repaired tanks or piping are tightness tested within 30 days of the repair. [Title 23, CCR, section 2661(f)] [40 CFR, section 280.33(d)]

4. If corrosion of steel tank or piping is discovered during an upgrade or repair, the tank and piping comply with the cathodic protection (CP) applicable design, certification, installation, inspection, and testing requirements. [Title 23, CCR, section 2660(n)] [40 CFR, section 280.33(d)]

5. The cathodic protection system is performing adequately and provides continuous protection. [Title 23, CCR, section 2635(a)(2)] [40 CFR, section 280.31(a)(b)(1)] AND  
The cathodic protection system is checked by a cathodic protection tester within 6 months of installation and at least every three years thereafter. [Title 23, CCR, section 2635(a)(2)(A)] [40 CFR, section 280.31(b)(1)]

\*Note: CP is required whether tanks are in operation or in temporary closure. [Title 23, CCR, section 2671(b)] [40 CFR, section 280.70(a)]

6. The impressed current cathodic protection system is checked every 60-calendar days. [Title 23, CCR, section 2635(a)(2)(A)] [40 CFR, section 280.31(c)]

7. Interior lined tanks are inspected within 10 years of lining installation and every 5 years thereafter; and the lining is compliant. [Title 23, CCR, section 2663(h)] [40 CFR, section 280.21(b)(1)(ii)]

8. Buried metal tanks and piping (including fittings, connections, etc.) are corrosion protected. [Title 23, CCR, section 2635(a)(2) and 2633(b) for new tanks] [Title 23, CCR, section 2636(b) and 2663(b) for new piping] [Title 23, CCR, section 2662(c) for existing tanks] [Title 23, CCR, section 2666(b) for existing piping] [40 CFR, section 280.20(a)-(b)- for USTs installed after 12/22/88] [40 CFR, section 280.21(a)-(c)- for USTs installed on or before 12/22/88]