this factsheet applies to • England •

OFTEC INFORMATION SHEET

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations were introduced to minimise the risk of pollution caused by inadequately stored oil and came into force on the 1st March 2002. This regulation is enforced by the Environment Agency (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 applies to non-domestic oil storage tank installations above 200L and oil storage tanks serving single-family dwellings above 3500L in England. They do not apply to tanks serving single-family dwellings under 3500L, tanks containing waste oil, tanks installed wholly underground or in a building, tanks involved in the refining or onward distribution of oil and agricultural fuel oil.

Examples of a non-domestic installation are: Commercial and/or industrial premises, schools, churches, village halls, hospitals or single family dwellings with an oil storage tank above 3500L.

Bunding

All oil storage tanks covered by the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 must be provided with secondary containment (bunding). This can be achieved by installing an integrally bunded oil storage tank constructed and OFCERT Licensed to OFS T100 (plastic tanks) and OFS T200 (steel tanks) or by constructing a concrete or masonry bund to CIRIA Report 163 (Construction of Bunds for Oil Storage Tanks).

Any existing oil storage tanks that are covered by this regulation should have been provided with secondary containment (bunding) retrospectively by 1st September 2005.

Note: If an existing oil storage tank is being replaced with a new integrally bunded oil storage tank, the replacement/new tank installation should also comply with the requirements of BS 5410 : Part 2.

Any constructed bund must have a minimum volume of 110% of the capacity of the tank or where there is more than one tank contained within the bund, the bund must have a minimum volume of either 110% of the capacity of the largest tank or 25% of the total volume of oil which could be stored at any one time. The base or wall of the bund must not be penetrated by any valves, pipes or other openings which could be used for draining the bund. If a fill pipe or draw-off pipe penetrates the base or wall of the bund the junction of the pipe must be adequately sealed to prevent oil escaping from the bund (steel fabricated puddle flanges are recommended for this use).

Ancillary equipment

Valves, filters, sight gauges, vent pipes or similar equipment which are ancillary to the tank, must be located within the bund. N.B. an isolating valve or filter installed in a pipe run from integrally bunded tanks are not classed as being ancillary to the tank and are therefore permitted to be installed outside the bund.

Sight gauges, of the traditional sight tube type to BS 5410, can be used on tanks covered by these regulations providing they are located within a masonry or concrete bund built to CIRIA Report 163. They cannot be used on integrally bunded oil storage tanks and therefore an electronic contents gauge is recommended. Sight gauges must be properly supported and incorporate a spring-loaded isolating valve which returns to the off position when not in use.

PUB/17

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OFTEC

OFTEC INFORMATION SHEET

Any permanent vent pipe, drain tap or valve fitted to the tank must be situated within the bund and be able to discharge oil vertically downwards into the bund. Any tap or valve must be locked shut when not in use.

Fittings for fuel delivery

All oil storage tanks covered by these regulations must be fitted with an overfill alarm and an overfill prevention device to BS EN 13616. Oil storage tanks constructed and OFCERT Licensed to OFS T100 and OFS T200 are supplied with these features as standard.

The tank must be filled via a screwed fitting or other fixed coupling which is in good condition. A drip tray must be provided at the time of fuel delivery to catch any oil that could be lost during the coupling and decoupling of the delivery hose.

Where oil is supplied from a tank through a permanently connected flexible pipe, the pipe must be fitted with an automatic closing tap or valve at the delivery end which cannot be fixed in an open position. The pipe must be secured in a cabinet incorporating a drip tray when not in use. Alternatively, the flexible pipe can be fitted with a lockable valve where it leaves the tank and must be kept within the bund when it is not in use.

Underground pipework

Underground pipework serving an installation covered by the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 must be protected from physical damage and should also incorporate a leak detecting facility. If this is not achievable then the pipes must be pressure tested before they are first used and then again once every ten years and recorded if there are no joints and once every five years if there are joints. All joints in underground pipework must be accessible for inspection and maintenance.

Drums and mobile bowsers

The capacity of a drip tray containing any drums must be equal to 25% of the capacity of the drums stored within it. For mobile bowsers, any tap or valve permanently fixed to the unit through which oil can be discharged to the open must be locked shut when not in use. Where oil is delivered through a flexible pipe which permanently attached to the unit, the pipe must be fitted with a manually operated pump or with a valve at the delivery end which closes automatically when not in use. When the pipe or valve is not in use they must be locked shut and in the case of the pipe, be fitted with a lockable valve at the end where it leaves the container.

Inspection and maintenance

Steel oil storage tanks when properly installed may require infrequent maintenance during their useful life, however they should be regularly inspected for any signs of corrosion or leakage. Plastic oil storage tanks usually require little maintenance, however, it is important that they are also inspected for any signs of leakage, discolouration and deformation.

It is recommended that oil storage tanks and their ancillary equipment are inspected on an annual basis by an OFTEC Registered Technician.

The OFTEC website enables you to locate your nearest Registered Technicians by postcode. OFTEC Registered Technicians are fully trained, have their work inspected and are re assessed every five years to maintain and improve their level of competence.

A list of local Registered Technicians can also be found under the OFTEC logo in the ‘Heating Engineers’ section of your local pages.

For further information on oil heating and cooking, please see www.oftec.org

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