Storage Tank Permit to Operate Requirements

Are all storage tanks required to have a permit to operate?

Wisconsin Administrative Code ATCP 93 requires all in-use and temporarily out-of-service storage tanks that are used to store flammable, combustible, or hazardous liquids must have a permit to operate, except:

- Aboveground tanks
- Farm and residential underground storage tanks which have a capacity of less than 1,100 gallons which are used for storing motor fuel
- Underground storage tanks storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises
- Tanks located at a US EPA superfund site

What do I need to apply for a permit to operate?

Applications for permits to operate must include:

- Signed permit application(s)
- Proof of financial responsibility
- Affidavit of financial responsibility
- Proof of primary leak detection method
  - For automatic tank gauge: three current and consecutive months of tank monitoring results, one day from each month, 28-32 days apart
  - Intertitial monitoring: three current and consecutive months of tank monitoring results, one day from each month, 28-32 days apart
  - For statistical inventory reconciliation: three current and consecutive months of summary reports from the company that conducted the analysis
- Three current and consecutive months of line monitoring results, or the annual precision tightness test of the piping
- Annual leak detector test report
- Cathodic protection test, for tanks requiring it
- Lining inspection report at the appropriate interval, for tanks requiring it

Is there a fee for a permit to operate?

No, there is no fee for a permit to operate.

How long is my permit good for?

Permits must be renewed annually. Permits expire on the 28th day of the month specified in the initially issued permit except when there has been a change of ownership.

Are there other things I need to know?

- Permits to operate are not transferrable to a new owner and expire upon completion of the real estate transaction.
- Tank system owners/operators are required to post the permits at the facility where the tank is located and in a location that is visible to the public. The permit must be maintained in a legible state.
- Permits to operate can now be renewed online at mydatcp.wi.gov.

Additional questions? Please contact our permitting department at (608)224-4942, option 3, or by email at datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov.