

**June, 2016**

**New York State has revised a number of regulations involving requirements for operating and maintaining petroleum bulk storage (PBS) tanks.**

A key revision is the requirement of tank owners to designate 'operators' whose purpose is to maintain underground storage tanks (UST's) in compliance with applicable state and federal regulations.

Designated Tank Operators are also required to pass a DEC-administered competency examination, then register with DEC through submittal of an updated PBS Permit Application.

Following is listing of actions that need to be taken by dealership management prior to the DEC imposed deadline of **October 11, 2016**:

- 1) Employers first must designate Tank Operators according to DEC classifications noted –
  - **Class A Operators** are individuals who have primary responsibility for the operation and maintenance of UST systems.
  - **Class B Operators** are individuals who have day-to-day responsibility for implementing the applicable requirements.
  - **Class C Operators** are employees having primary responsibility for addressing emergencies presented by a spill or release from an UST system.

One person may fulfill the roles of all three Operator types at a dealership. If employers choose this route, then operators need to complete the Class A and B exams. Class C Operators must also be designated by October 11th but are not required to pass the DEC exam.

- 2) Designated Class A and B Operators must then pass the DEC-administered competency examination.
- 3) Last, employers must submit an updated PBS Tank Permit Application indicating the operators name(s) and including an authorization number which is obtained by passing the competency examination.

The DEC has created a webpage <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/102202.html> to provide additional info on UST tank training requirements. The webpage also provides useful links for designated Class A and B Operators to assist in exam taking including:

- A link for creating an account to take the exam on-line,
- A link to a UST operator exam tutorial, and
- A link to an Operator Training Guide (known as Tank IQ). The exam is open book so downloading the Tank IQ guide could be very helpful.