

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET

Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) Phase-In Requirements

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (Agency) revised the [Vermont AST Rules](#) (Rules) in 2024. The current Rules, which became effective on August 1, 2024, set standards for the design, installation, and alteration of both new and existing tanks. All new tanks (i.e., those installed **after** August 1, 2024) must be installed in compliance with all installation standards established in the Rules. Existing tanks (i.e., those installed **before** August 1, 2024) are subject to several new standards which become effective in the future; these standards are referred to as “phase-in” requirements. The Rules include seven phase-in requirements that existing tanks will be subject to starting on July 1, 2030. This fact sheet summarizes these standards and explains how to comply with them; refer to the Rules for specific requirements.

Summary of Phase-In Requirements

The previous version of the AST Rules (2017) included one phase-in requirement related to tank foundations. Specifically, it required that all tanks, regardless of installation date, have an upgraded foundation consisting of a single continuous pad or a bolted concrete slab. This phase-in requirement remains in the Rules, with an effective date of July 1, 2030. In addition to the existing phase-in requirement for tank foundations, the 2024 Rules added six new phase-in requirements which are listed and explained below; the deadline to comply with these requirements is July 1, 2030.

Note: some of these requirements may be eligible for an *exemption*; this is noted where applicable below.

Fill and vent pipes: All existing AST systems must have fill and vent pipes constructed in compliance with NFPA Part 31 requirements. Specifically, pipes must be made of schedule 40 steel or brass. Tank fill and vent piping must have male or female threaded ends that comply with a recognized thread specification, or press-connect ends listed to Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 180 Standard for Combustible Liquid Tank Accessories. Press-connect fittings must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications with a tool recommended by the manufacturer.

Tank piping and fuel lines: All piping and fuel lines which are in contact with concrete or earthen materials (dirt, gravel) must be protected against corrosion and physical damage. Contact with concrete or earthen material can mean: buried in (installed below grade), installed through (lines installed into concrete floor or through concrete walls), or placed on top of (installed directly on top of concrete or dirt floor). To protect against corrosion, piping and lines should be coated; to protect against physical damage, piping and lines should be sleeved with crush resistant conduit. The Agency has prepared comprehensive guidance on this topic; refer to the [Protection From Corrosion and Physical Damage for AST Piping and Fuel Lines Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

Tank legs: All existing ASTs must have legs that are no longer than 14 inches. A request for an *exemption* from this requirement may be submitted to the Agency in writing and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Protection from ice and snow: All existing AST systems that are located outdoors must be protected from physical damage caused by ice and snow. Compliance with this requirement may include ensuring the tank is on the gable end of a house, is installed in a secondary containment structure, or is placed in or under a structure with a roof.

Tanks located in flood prone areas: Both indoor and outdoor AST systems located in flood hazard areas must be anchored to the tank foundation (e.g., concrete pad) using foot flanges, concrete anchors, or earth augers. Tank vent pipes must be of sufficient length to extend above projected flood levels; typically, 5 feet will be sufficient to fulfill this requirement. An *exemption* from these flood-related requirements may be requested for outdoor tanks; indoor tanks are not eligible for an exemption.

The Agency has developed detailed guidance on flood-related topics. To review guidance on how to determine whether a property falls within a flood zone, refer to the [Making a Flood Prone Area Determination Guidance](#); to review guidance on tank installations in flood zones, refer to the [Requirements for Installing ASTs in Flood Prone Areas Fact Sheet](#).

Tanks located at Marinas: All ASTs located at marinas must employ secondary containment.

Why were these phase-in requirements developed by the Agency?

These requirements were added to the Rules to address fuel releases that continue to occur from existing tanks that were installed without these standards. In order to provide tank owners with sufficient time to upgrade their tanks to these standards, the Agency has set a “phase-in” deadline of July 1, 2030, rather than requiring immediate compliance.

Are these new requirements listed on the Tank Inspection Checklists?

Yes, but they are not included with the red and yellow tag inspection items. They are clearly identified as items that must be brought into compliance by July 1, 2030. Tank inspectors should continue to fully fill out each inspection form; alerting tank owners of future compliance requirements will enable tank owners to better plan for future upgrades/repairs to their existing systems. To view a routine inspection checklist for an existing tank system, please visit the following website:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/storage-tanks/aboveground-storage-tanks-asts/asts-heating>.

Can a customer with an existing tank system be red or yellow-tagged for lacking requirements that are being implemented in 2030?

No. The Agency sets standards for red and yellow tagging and these phase-in requirements are not identified as red or yellow tag items in the current AST Rules. The requirements do not become enforceable compliance items for existing tanks until July 1, 2030.

Note: As a private business, any fuel dealer may choose to adopt more stringent tank installation standards than those set by the Agency in the Rules; adopting less stringent standards is not allowed. If a company chooses to adopt more stringent standards as part of its business practices, it is important to note that these additional requirements are not enforced by the Agency and red or yellow tags cannot be issued. Additionally, customers should be made aware that any additional installation standards are at the discretion of the fuel company and are not required by the Agency.

How do these phase-in requirements apply to new AST systems?

Any new AST system (i.e., installed after August 1, 2024) must be compliant with all installation standards specified in the AST Rules. The phase-in requirements are written specifically for existing tanks; there are no applicable phase-in requirements for new AST installations.

Where can I find the Rules that include these requirements?

The [Vermont AST Rules](#) are posted on the State of Vermont website. Phase-in requirements are established in **Section 9-303(g)**; a description of each can be found in **Section 9-303(c)**.

For more information regarding phase-in requirements, or if you have other questions about ASTs, please contact:

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<https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/storage-tanks/aboveground-storage-tanks-asts>