

OUT-OF-SERVICE TANKS

An underground storage tank system is classified as “out-of-service” when it is neither receiving nor dispensing fuel. Even if a tank is not in use, it has the potential to be an environmental hazard unless the requirements for taking a tank temporarily out of service are followed or the storage system is permanently closed. This *TankSmart* module describes the requirements for the following out-of-service conditions:

- ▶ **Tanks out of service for 3 to 12 months**
- ▶ **Seasonal operations** (e.g., marinas, campgrounds)
- ▶ **Tanks out of service for more than 12 months**
- ▶ **Permanent closure of a tank**

Taking a storage tank out of service means doing more than simply shutting off the electricity, locking the door to the facility, and walking away. Unless a storage system is properly taken out of service, you may never be able to bring it back into service.



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TANKS OUT OF SERVICE FOR 3 TO 12 MONTHS

If you are planning to take your tank(s) out of service for 3 to 12 months, you must take the following measures:

- Notify the DEP within 3 months of the time when the tank stopped routinely receiving or dispensing fuel.
- Maintain the cathodic-protection system (if applicable).
- Continue to perform leak detection OR drain the tank so there is no more than 1 inch of residual liquid (both product and water).
- Leave the vent lines open.

- Cap/secure all other lines, pumps, manways, and ancillary equipment.
- Submit a passing Annual Inspection Report. (See the *TankSmart* Annual Inspection module.)
- Report and investigate any evidence of a leak.

SEASONAL OPERATIONS

A seasonal operation is one that regularly operates for only part of each year. If your tank(s) is out of service for more than 3 months every year, all requirements for out-of-service tanks described above apply. If your tank(s) is out of service for less than 3 months, then all of the rules applicable to in-service tanks, including leak detection requirements, apply during the period the tank is inactive.

TANKS OUT OF SERVICE FOR MORE THAN 12 MONTHS

If your tank(s) is out of service for more than 12 months, it must be properly **REMOVED** unless the owner obtains **WRITTEN APPROVAL** from the DEP to remain out of service beyond the 12 months. The owner must request approval in writing from the DEP before the end of the initial 12-month out-of-service period.

RETURNING A TANK TO SERVICE

When you return your tank(s) to service, you must comply with the following requirements:

- The tank system must be in compliance with all applicable requirements of the DEP tank regulations, including maintaining proper registration and having fulfilled all of the requirements for being temporarily out of service.
- The tank system must have passed an annual inspection in the last 12 months.
- The tank and its associated piping must pass a tightness test, and the results must be submitted to the DEP prior to returning to service. Contact the DEP to determine the specific tightness-testing needs for your storage system.
- You must notify the DEP in writing **BEFORE** you return the tank(s) to service.

When you return your tank(s) to service, you must comply with requirements.

PERMANENT CLOSURE OF A TANK

If you plan to permanently close a tank, contact the DEP for guidance. Call 207-287-2651, or write: 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.



Tanks that remain out of service for more than 12 months MUST be permanently removed unless the owner applies for and receives permission from the DEP to keep the tank out of service BEFORE the 12 month out of service period ends.

**Maine DEP staff can assist you
with permanent closure information
upon request.**

Call: 207-287-2651

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