



## Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Management

Owners and operators of underground petroleum storage systems have a number of duties under the law to protect the environment. These laws include the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and the Acts subordinate legislation. For example, under the *State Environment Protection Policy (Groundwaters of Victoria)*, you as a business are required to take all practicable measures to prevent pollution of groundwater.

However, the *Guidelines on the Design, Installation and Management Requirements for Underground Petroleum Storage Systems* (Publication 888.1 January 2009) issued by the EPA Victoria, is the main piece of legislation for owners and/or operators of UPSSs. These guidelines have been developed to guide operators on the correct practices and management of UPSSs in Victoria, as in the past they have been inappropriately managed. Owners and operators should also be aware of the *Australian Standards 4897 2008* which outlines the specific requirements for UPSS design and management. The Australian Standards should be used hand in hand with The Guidelines.

If UPSSs or AGSTs (Above Ground Storage Tanks) exist on site, it is important that these tanks have adequate bunding and cannot leak or be overfilled. They should be protected from corrosion and frequently tested. The EPA or your local water authority can provide advice on your bund design.

To anticipate or prevent UPSSs and AGSTs from deteriorating they need to be monitored regularly. Your inspections should include the transfer and delivery pipe-work.

Fuel use audits and monitoring should be conducted regularly. Unaccounted use must be investigated. An unexplained increase in fuel consumption or the presence of unexplained water in the fuel might indicate a leak or rupture in your tank.

### Risk Management

- Identify and properly document the location, size, age, condition, maintenance history and other details of all of the storage tanks on your premises.
- Bund AGSTs to contain any spill that may occur.
- Roof AGST to prevent rainfall contamination.
- Complete a regular documented inspection of your UPSS according to the UPSS Guidelines.
- Keep up to date with all applicable legislation and regulations.
- Make sure that you monitor and maintain UPSSs in accordance with applicable environmental and dangerous goods legislation and standards.

## Environmental Guidelines



- Install and maintain a tank monitoring / leak detection system for UPSSs.
- Develop, and train employees in the use of procedures that describe what to do when a spill or leak occurs.
- Clean up and report significant spillage or leakage to the EPA and other relevant authorities such as the Fire Brigade, Police and WorkSafe.
- If you discover any contaminated soil on your premises have it investigated by a qualified consultant.
- De-commission UPSSs that are no longer in use.

### Please Note

As of 28 March 2008, the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) withdrew from the publication and sale of the *Code of Practice 4 (CP4) – Design, Installation and Operation of Underground Petroleum Storage Systems*. The code is no longer reviewed or maintained by AIP, and should therefore not be used for operational procedures and standards. VACC members should now refer to the EPA *Guidelines on the Design, Installation and Management Requirements for Underground Petroleum Storage Systems* (Publication 888.1) and the *Australian Standards 4897 2008*.

### Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Phone: (03) 9695 2722

[www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

EPA Publication 888.1 – *Guidelines on the Design, Installation and Management Requirements for Underground Petroleum Storage Systems* found at

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/land/upss.asp>.

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**Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.**