

The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006

The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations were introduced to minimise the risk of pollution caused by inadequately stored oil and came into force on 1st April 2006. These regulations apply to non-domestic and agricultural oil storage tanks above 200L and domestic oil storage tanks above 2500L. This includes portable containers (drums, intermediate bulk containers (IBC's) and mobile bowsers etc), as well as fixed storage above ground and within buildings.

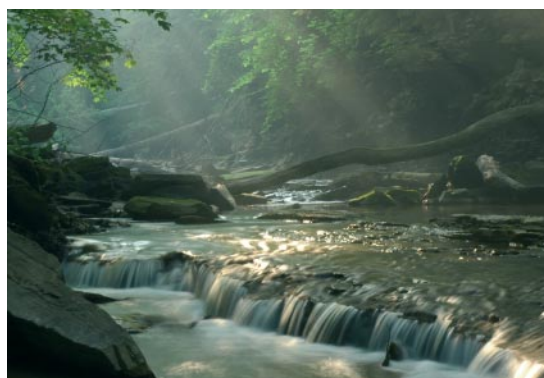
NOTE: The scope of these requirements differ considerably to the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. For further information on these regulations reference should be made to OFTEC Information Sheet "The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001".

Example of non-domestic installations are:

Commercial and/or industrial premises, schools, churches, village halls, hospitals and single family dwellings which have an oil storage tank above 2500L.

Bunding

All new oil storage tanks covered by the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations must be provided with secondary containment (bunding) from 1st April 2006 (new installations after this date had until 1st October 2006 to comply). This can be achieved by installing an integrally banded oil storage tank constructed and OFCERT Licensed to OFS T100 (plastic tanks) or to OFS T200 (steel tanks) or by constructing a concrete or masonry bund to CIRIA Report 163 (Construction of Bunds for Oil Storage Tanks). Any existing oil storage tanks covered by the above regulations which are less than 10m away from surface water or wetlands or less than 50m from any well or borehole must be provided with secondary containment (retrospectively) by 1st April 2008. All other installations that are covered by this regulation are required to have secondary containment (retrospectively) by 1st April 2010.



NOTE: If an existing oil storage tank is being replaced with a new integrally banded oil storage tank, the replacement/new tank installation should comply with the current requirements in the Scottish Building Standards Non-Domestic Handbook.

Any constructed bund must have a minimum volume of 110% of the capacity of the tank. Where there is more than one tank contained within a bund, the bund must have a minimum volume of either 110% of the capacity of the largest tank or 25% of the total volume of oil which could be stored at any one time (whichever is the greater). The base or wall of a bund must not be penetrated by any valves, pipes or other openings which could be used for draining the bund. If a fill pipe or draw-off pipe penetrates the base or wall of the bund the junction of the pipe must be adequately sealed to prevent oil escaping from the bund (steel fabricated puddle flanges are recommended for this use).

Ancillary Equipment

Valves, filters, sight gauges, vent pipes or similar equipment which are ancillary to the tank must be located within the bund. N.B. an

isolating valve or filter installed in a pipe run from integrally bundled tanks are not classed as being ancillary to the tank and are therefore permitted to be installed outside a bund.

Sight gauges of the traditional sight tube type to BS 5410 can be used on tanks covered by these regulations providing that they are located within a masonry or concrete bund built to CIRIA Report 163. They cannot be used on integrally bundled oil storage tanks and an alternative type of gauge should be considered (i.e. electronic, hydrostatic or float operated). Sight tubes must be properly supported and incorporate a spring-loaded isolating valve which returns to the shut-off position when not in use.

Any permanent vent pipe, drain tap or valve fitted to the tank must be situated within the bund and be able to discharge oil vertically downwards into the bund. Any tap or valve must be locked shut when not in use.



Fittings for fuel delivery

Oil storage tanks covered by these regulations must be fitted with an automatic overfill prevention device (which may include an alarm sounding device) if the filling operation is controlled from a place where it is not reasonably practicable to see the tank or any vent pipe. Oil storage tanks constructed and OFCERT Licensed to OFS T100 and OFS T200 are supplied with these features as standard.

The tank must be filled via a screwed fitting or other fixed coupling which is in good condition. A drip tray must be provided at the time of fuel delivery to catch any oil that could be lost during the coupling and decoupling of the delivery hose.

Where oil is supplied from a tank through a permanently connected flexible pipe, the pipe must be fitted with an automatic closing tap or valve at the delivery end which cannot be fixed in an open position. The pipe must be secured in a cabinet incorporating a drip tray when not in use. Alternatively, the flexible pipe can be fitted with a lockable valve where it leaves the tank and must be kept within the bund when it is not in use.

Underground Pipework

Underground pipework serving an installation covered by the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations must be protected from physical damage and should also incorporate a leak detecting facility. If this is not achievable then the pipes must be pressure tested and the result recorded before they are first used and then again once every ten years if there are no joints and once every five years if there are joints. All joints in underground pipework must be accessible for inspection and maintenance.

Drums and Mobile Bowsers

The capacity of a drip tray containing any drums must be equal to 25% of the capacity of the drums stored within it. For mobile bowsers, any tap or valve permanently fixed to the unit through which oil can be discharged to the open must be locked shut when not in use.

Where oil is delivered through a flexible pipe which is permanently attached to the unit, the pipe must be fitted with a manually operated pump or with a valve at the delivery end which closes automatically when not in use. When the pipe or valve is not in use they must be locked shut and in the case of the pipe, be fitted with a lockable valve at the end where it leaves the container.

Inspection and Maintenance

Steel oil storage tanks when properly installed may require infrequent maintenance during their useful life, however they should be regularly inspected for any signs of corrosion or leakage. Plastic oil storage tank usually require little maintenance, however, it is important that they are also inspected for any signs of leakage, discolouration and deformation.

It is recommended that oil storage tanks and their ancillary equipment are inspected on an annual basis by an OFTEC Registered Technician.

The OFTEC website enables you to locate your nearest Registered Technicians by postcode. OFTEC Registered Technicians are fully trained, have their work inspected and are re-assessed every five years to maintain and improve their level of competence.

A list of local Registered Technicians can also be found under the OFTEC logo in the 'Heating Engineers' section of your local pages.

For further information on oil heating and cooking, please see www.oftec.org