



Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) System Registration

What You Need to Know

Beginning June 13, 2022, Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.10.01.10 requires an owner, operator, or person in charge of a facility that has greater than 2,500 gallons of aggregate¹ oil storage capacity² in aboveground storage tank (AST) systems to register all such AST systems with MDE. There is no fee for registering AST systems. AST system registrations do not expire and must be maintained up to date.

Who Must Register?

Facility Operating Under an Individual Oil Operations Permit

A facility operating under an Individual Oil Operations Permit (e.g., a facility with 10,000 gallons or greater of aboveground oil storage, 1,000 gallons or greater of used oil storage, marinas with an AST system that is part of a motor fuel dispensing facility) will have the AST systems at the facility registered through the individual oil operations permitting application process. Therefore, no additional registration forms are necessary.

Facility Operating Under a General Permit by Rule

An owner, an operator, and a person in charge of an oil storage facility or oil handling facility that operates under the general permit by rule (see COMAR 26.10.01.09B) and has greater than 2,500 gallons of aboveground oil storage is required to submit a completed *AST System Registration Form*.

Registration Exemptions

Unless otherwise directed by MDE, an owner, an operator, and a person in charge of an oil storage facility or oil handling facility is not required to register an AST system if:

- The oil storage facility is a single-family residential property
- The aggregate storage capacity is 2,500 gallons or less
- The AST system stores oil for less than six consecutive months

Dos and Don'ts

- **DO** identify all AST systems that store oil (or are intended for that purpose) that have a storage capacity of greater than 250 gallons. If the total capacity of such AST systems is more than 2,500 gallons, then you must register all AST systems at the facility.

¹ "Aggregate storage capacity" means the total oil storage capacity of all ASTs on a property.

² "Storage capacity" means the primary shell capacity of a storage tank.



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- **DO** include all ASTs that store motor fuel oil products, including 100% ethanol intended for use as a motor fuel and bio-diesel regardless of the percentage of petroleum content.
- **DO NOT** include tanks, containers, drums, etc. that have a storage capacity of 250 gallons or less. They do not meet the regulatory definition for an AST.
- **DO NOT** include tanks that store non-petroleum products, such as antifreeze, diesel exhaust fluid, propane, natural gas, edible oils (unless used as bio-diesel), etc.
- **DO NOT** include “flow-through process tanks” or “oil-filled operational equipment” such as hydraulic reservoirs, engine crankcases, onboard fuel tanks meant for an internal combustion engine integral to the equipment, transformers, and integrated “belly tanks” of generators.
- **DO NOT** use the same form for more than one facility.
- **DO NOT** use the same form for both new registrations and amended or closed registrations.
- **DO** maintain a copy of the AST system registration at the facility and make it available to MDE upon request.
- **DO** inform a new owner or transferee of responsibility for registered AST systems of the requirements to register the AST systems and provide them with a copy of the current AST system registration.
- **DO** submit a written notice to MDE 30 days before placing an AST system out-of-service, returning to in-service, or permanently closing/removing the tank from the site.
- **DO NOT** allow the receipt or delivery of oil to, or the selling or dispensing of oil from, an AST system that is not registered if required to be by COMAR 26.10.01.10.

Permanent Closure and Removal of Registered AST Systems

All registered AST systems (whether the facility is covered under a General Permit by Rule or an Individual Oil Operations Permit) are required to be placed out-of-service and/or permanently removed in accordance with COMAR 26.10.17.13.

For further information, see the *Permanent Closure of Aboveground Storage Tank Systems* fact sheet.



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Compliance Timeframe

- New or replacement AST systems are required to be registered within 30 days of the installation date.
- Existing AST systems are required to be registered by December 13, 2023.
- An AST system registration must be amended within 30 days of the following:
 - The sale, transfer of ownership, or change in ownership structure
 - A change in the oil product stored in the AST system
 - The installation of a new or replacement AST system at the facility
 - A change in status of the AST system to or from in-service, out-of-service, or permanently closed, including a change-in-service to store a non-oil product in the AST system

Furthermore, written notice to MDE is required at least 30 days before a change in the status of an AST system. This requirement in COMAR 26.10.17.13 is separate from amending the AST registration, which must be done within 30 days after such a change.

Questions

For further information on the registration of AST systems, contact the Oil Control Program at 410-537-3442 or 1-800-633-6101, ext. 3442.

To report oil spills, releases, or discharges please call 1-866-633-4686, available 24 hours a day.

****DISCLAIMER****

The storage of petroleum products and the installation, maintenance, and inspection of storage systems is a hazardous endeavor. This fact sheet has been provided for informational purposes. This document is not intended to be, nor should it be interpreted as, a regulation as defined in Section 10-101, State Government Article. MDE encourages you to read and understand the regulations that govern the operation of aboveground and underground storage systems found in COMAR 26.10. – Oil Pollution Control and Storage Tank Management.