Message

From: Macias, Tina [tmacias@khou.com]
Sent: 3/20/2019 6:13:57 PM
To: Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Your Inquiry

Thank you, Carmen. One more question – are companies required to file their inspection reports with the EPA or any other agency?

Thank you,
Tina

Tina Macias
Investigative Producer
KHOU-11
STANDS FOR HOUSTON
A TEGNA Company | 5718 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77057
tmacias@khou.com | O: 713-284-1099 | C: 832-581-6446 | khou.com

---

From: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:45 AM
To: Macias, Tina <tmacias@khou.com>
Subject: Your Inquiry

External Email – Be Suspicious of Attachments, Links and Requests for Login Information

Thank you for writing.

1. **Is there a recommended age/lifetime of an aboveground storage tank? Same question for underground storage tanks.**
   There is no age limit or lifespan defined in the regulations on either aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) or underground storage tanks (USTs), as long as they are maintained in accordance with tank specific Industry Standard (such as API or STI or UL).
2. **This document refers to regional inspectors. Who inspects the tanks – trained personnel in the company, an outside company, EPA personnel or someone else?**
   The document you are referencing is the National Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) Inspector Guidances document. This chapter discusses inspections that an SPCC subject facility must do, or have done, by a Tank Inspector knowledgeable in the applicable standards. These Inspectors can be company employees, or contractors. SPCC Regulations require subject facilities to follow industry accepted standards, mentioned above, to inspect & maintain their storage tanks. For USTs specifically, older tanks must have Corrosion Protection (CP) that is checked regularly and inspected by a certified corrosion expert. In Texas, regulated UST sites are inspected by the TCEQ and covered under 30 TAC Chapter 334.

To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Press Inquiry from KHOU deadline today

Good afternoon David,

In light of the tank fire in La Porte, I'm trying to make sense of tank inspection guidelines found here: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-04/documents/7_inspectionsevaluation_testing_2014.pdf Can you answer a couple questions for me:

1. Is there a recommended age/lifetime of an aboveground storage tank? Same question for underground storage tanks.
2. This document refers to regional inspectors. Who inspects the tanks – trained personnel in the company, an outside company, EPA personnel or someone else?

Thanks,
Tina

Tina Macias
Investigative Producer
KHOU 11
STANDS FOR HOUSTON
A TEGNA Company | 5718 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77057
tmacias@khou.com | O: 713-284-1099 | C: 832-581-6446 | khou.com