



Office of the Illinois
State Fire Marshal

"Partnering With the Fire Service to Protect Illinois"

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

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RE: **UPDATED POLICY
ABOVEGROUND TANK INSTALLATIONS IN CITY OF CHICAGO**

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is hereby announcing the following important change to the policy of the OSFM relative to the installation of ASTs within the City of Chicago.

For many years the OSFM practiced a policy whereby AST installations in Chicago were not reviewed or inspected by the OSFM but rather deferred to the City of Chicago for permit review and inspection.

Effective immediately the OSFM will apply the requirements for AST installation found in 41 Ill. Adm. Code 160 and 180 to installations being made within the City of Chicago. This requires the filing of an application and accompanying plans with the OSFM to review the installation or relocation of ASTs containing flammable or combustible liquids as well as an on-site inspection and approval prior to the tank being placed into operation.

To be more specific, although all installations are required to comply with the applicable rules, an application (in triplicate) is required to be made to the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal for the installation or relocation of any AST that will contain flammable or combustible liquid if:

- Of any capacity if fuel is dispensed from the AST into vehicles or portable tanks or containers;
- Of greater than 110 gallons capacity if used for other than dispensing purposes (e.g., emergency generator supply tanks, fresh and waste oil storage tanks, bulk storage tanks, chemical products if they are flammable or combustible liquids, etc.).

Temporary (not to exceed 6 months) installations, although required to comply with all applicable installation and operating requirements prescribed by adopted codes, are not required to submit plans and applications or undergo an on-site inspection by OSFM.

The administrative rules of the OSFM applicable to AST installations can be found in two separate online documents:

41 Ill. Adm. Code 180 (applicable to ASTs from which dispensing will be done):

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/041/04100180sections.html>

41 Ill. Adm. Code 160 (applicable to non-dispensing ASTs)

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/041/04100160sections.html>

Applications pertaining to the installation or relocation of ASTs can be found on the OSFM's website at the following address: http://www.state.il.us/osfm/Techservices/application_forms.htm. This includes the following:

- The OSFM “*Aboveground Dispensing Storage Tank Application*”, a two page application that is required to be completed, signed and submitted in triplicate, with site plans also in triplicate, for the installation or relocation of any AST that will be used dispense flammable or combustible liquids into motor vehicles or portable storage tanks or containers.
- The OSFM “*Aboveground Non-Dispensing (Bulk) Storage Tank Application*”, a two page application that is required to be completed, signed and submitted in triplicate, with site plans also in triplicate, for the installation or relocation of any AST that will be used to store flammable or combustible liquids for non-dispensing (bulk storage) purposes.
- The OSFM “*Aboveground Airport Dispensing Storage Tank Application*”, a two page application that is required to be completed, signed and submitted in triplicate, with site plans also in triplicate, for the installation or relocation of any AST that will be used dispense flammable or combustible liquids into aircraft as allowed by 41 Ill. Adm. Code 180. Note that this application requires initial filing with the Illinois Department of Transportation’s Division of Aviation. After review and approval of the proposed work by IDOT the application is forwarded to the OSFM for review.

At this time there continues to be no fees associated with the OSFM’s AST tank plan review or field inspection process.

The application and on-site inspection process pertains to tanks that are being newly installed or relocated. It does not pertain to previously installed ASTs that are currently in operation. There is not a need for contractors or owners to “register” or reapply for AST installations that were made prior to this announcement.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal does not control the permitting or field inspection process practiced by the City of Chicago. Therefore, contractors and owners will need to verify the city’s requirements with officials of the City of Chicago. **PREVIOUS PERMITTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS INVOKED BY THE CITY OF CHICAGO SHOULD BE ASSUMED AS REMAINING IN EFFECT unless the City of Chicago notifies you of changes.** The application and inspection requirements of the OSFM being announced in this document are in addition to any requirements applied by the City of Chicago.

If you have further questions concerning any of this information please feel free to contact the Technical Services Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 217/524-7605 or by writing to SFM.Techservices@illinois.gov.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Wood, P.E.
Fire Protection Engineer
Director, OSFM Technical Services