

RCRA/SUPERFUND HOTLINE MONTHLY REPORT
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2. Secondary Containment for Used Oil Aboveground Tanks

A used oil burner recently added several new boilers in order to meet increasing demand. In order to accommodate the additional volume of used oil arriving at the facility, the used oil burner also decides to construct several new aboveground storage tanks. Does the used oil burner need to construct secondary containment for the new tanks? If so, are the secondary containment standards for the new tanks different from the standards for existing used oil storage tanks?

Used oil burners must equip all new and existing used oil aboveground tanks with secondary containment (40 CFR §279.64). Secondary containment requirements for new aboveground tanks consist of dikes, berms, or retaining walls and an oil-impervious floor under the tanks to capture any releases from the units. The floor must cover the entire area within the specified containment structure (§279.64(e)). Existing tanks have similar secondary containment requirements. The containment system must also include dikes, berms, or retaining walls, and an oil-impervious floor. However, unlike new tanks, the floor under existing tanks need not cover areas where the existing tank meets the ground (§279.64(d)). EPA determined that it is not necessary to require retrofitting of the floors directly beneath an existing used oil aboveground tank that is in good condition (57 FR 41566, 41590; September 10, 1992).

Note that owners and operators of transfer facilities, and processors and rerefiners of used oil, must also install and maintain the same type of secondary containment for new and existing aboveground tanks (§§279.45 and 279.54).