

OFTEC Surveys



Guidance note for the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001

Clause 22

“Regular inspection by qualified inspectors of your containers will ensure that potential defects are found and corrected before causing problems and are key to ensuring that containers do not cause pollution”.

Clause 27

“A more detailed annual check by a trained operator, eg in the OFTEC registered scheme, is also recommended to ensure there is no corrosion, mechanical damage or oil leaks”.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>



Every year leaks and spills from oil storage tanks and pipe-work and ancillary equipment account for **over a quarter** of all pollution incidents in the UK. Spilt oil can pollute streams, rivers and (if it soaks through the soil and rock) groundwater supplies. If your site pollutes water you are committing an offence and you may be prosecuted or fined and you may also have to pay substantial clean up costs.

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 set out the requirements to be met for the safe storage of oil in containers above ground. As of September 1st, 2005, all oil storage containers above 200 litres are required to comply with these regulations.

OFTEC Information note T1/120 “Oil Storage Inspection and Maintenance” referred to in Clause 22 also states that: *“It is recommended that oil storage tanks and their ancillary equipment are inspected on an annual basis by an OFTEC Registered Technician”.*

PPL have been carrying out OFTEC surveys throughout the country for many years with clients including the Environment Agency, Royal Mail, Arriva Buses, County/Borough Councils, MoD sites, and over 80 NHS Hospitals and Trusts. PPL clients have annual contracts in place to ensure that they achieve and maintain compliance with the regulations.

Each survey is carried out by an OFTEC registered and fully qualified technician (OFTEC 600A) who will complete a full report for all oil storage on site including a detailed survey of each container, any relevant photographs and a full summary of the findings, including items for future attention.

On completion, a bound and/or electronic copy of the report will be returned to site.

Annual OFTEC and interceptor inspections offer peace of mind that your oil storage on site is being correctly maintained and that it remains compliant with all current regulations.

Surveys are comprehensive and the report covers the following:

- Tank(s) location, type of oil, identification and use.
- Tank(s) capacity, construction and age.
- Condition of tank(s), gauges, pipes and bund(s).
- Condition and compliance of supports and base(s).
- Inspection of impact and overfill protection.
- Inspection of gauges, level alarms and fire valves.
- Inspection of fill points, draw off points and vents.
- Inspection of pumps and ancillary equipment.
- Bund capacity, construction and condition.
- Inspection of sumps and dewatering systems.
- Procedure for operation and filling.
- Spill response procedures, equipment and training.
- Relevant environmental and fire issues.

Whilst onsite, our technicians can also inspect any petrol/oil separators to complement our IWS (Interceptor and Waste Services) offering.

The IWS interceptor inspections include the following:

- The size (approximate capacity).
- All relevant manufacturer details.
- Alarm details (if fitted).
- Oil and silt levels.
- Condition of lids, turrets, access chambers and the interceptor.

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