



Fact Sheet

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Underground Storage Tank Site Check Compliance Assistance

What is a site check?

A site check is limited sampling in the area where a release is suspected. A site check might be a soil sample, a groundwater sample or a combination of both.

When is a site check required?

Sampling is required anytime SCDES suspects a release might have occurred from any portion of the UST system. Common reasons for requesting sampling include visually contaminated soil, faulty equipment, failing tightness tests or unusual operating conditions.

How is a site check performed?

Collect a soil or groundwater sample using approved sampling techniques (see Underground Storage Tank Assessment Guidelines and Analytical Methodology for Groundwater and Soil Assessment Guidelines). Be sure to dispose of any contaminated soil properly.

If collecting a sample is not possible due to the suspected release area being directly above the tank, below a dispenser, or in gravel, the sample should be collected alongside the area as close as possible to the affected area. If spill bucket removal occurs, a sample should be collected directly below the spill bucket before the bucket is replaced. If the bucket is repaired but not removed, then the sample should be collected as close as possible to the repaired spill bucket.

What tests are required?

Soil and water samples collected for analysis of gasoline, diesel, and kerosene should use Method 8260B for BTEX/Naphthalene (with 5030B for water and 5035 for soil) and Method 8270D for PAH (with 3510C for water and 3550C for soil). A South Carolina certified laboratory must analyze the samples.

What information should a site check contain?

- The UST permit number and site address
- A detailed map showing the suspected release location, labeled sample location(s), north arrow, building locations, road names, tank and dispenser locations and extent of excavation
- A complete description of soils
- A detailed description of the methods used to collect and store samples
- A laboratory analysis report (must include the chain of custody)

Who should receive the final report?

Submit the completed site check to the Underground Storage Tank Management Division, 2600 Bull St., Columbia, SC 29201. For more information, contact the coordinator by calling (803) 898-0589 or by email: denise.place@des.sc.gov.