Please note: You may need to continue doing monthly inventory control as you use your ATGS. If your ATGS was installed after December 22, 1990 and does not meet performance standards for minimum leak detection rates, you must continue to perform proper inventory control. Check the third-party evaluation of your ATGS to see if it meets the performance standard requiring ATGS to detect a leak of 0.2 gallons per hour with 95% probability of detection and 5% probability of false alarm. ***If you are not sure, check with your responsible agency.***

Need More Information?

EPA can provide free, easy-to-read publications that concisely describe all aspects of federal UST requirements.

To order free publications, determine if your tanks need to meet federal UST requirements, get more information about UST requirements, or identify state regulatory authorities, please call **EPA's toll-free Hotline at 800-424-9346.** Remember, requirements and deadlines may be different in some states, so check with your state UST program office.

You can also find UST publications, links to state regulatory authorities, and other UST information at EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks Web site at **http://www.epa.gov/OUST/**

Remember, it's in your best interest that your ATGS works and detects leaks as soon as possible—

before leaks become big cleanup and liability problems.

Protect your ATGS investment by making sure your ATGS installer:

- Trains you in proper operation of the ATGS.
- Demonstrates that the ATGS has been correctly installed and programmed for the tank it monitors.
- Gives you an operation manual, schedules and documentation for calibration/maintenance, third-party evaluation, and phone numbers for technical support.
- Schedules maintenance with you as required by the manufacturer's instructions.

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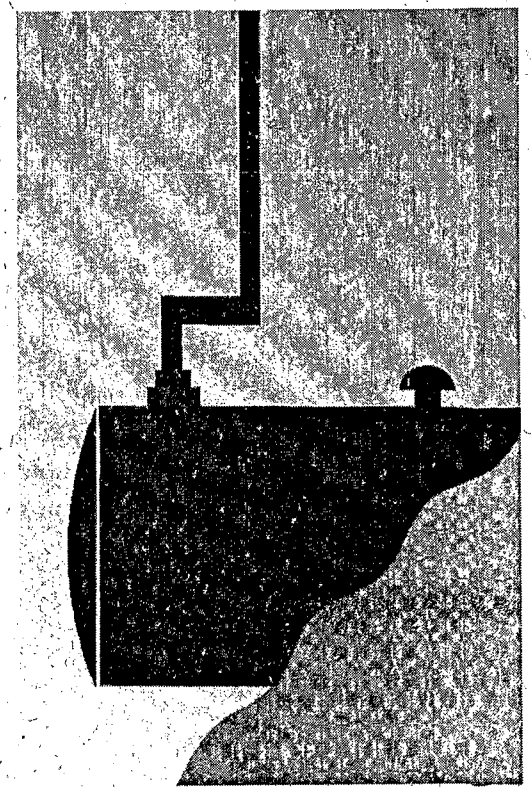
Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5401G)

EPA

Getting The Most Out Of Your Automatic Tank Gauging System



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Getting The Most Out Of Your Automatic Tank Gauging System

As an owner or operator of an underground storage tank, you have invested a lot of money in your automatic tank gauging system to detect leaks—but are you getting your money's worth?

If you don't operate your automatic tank gauging system (ATGS) effectively, you may be letting stored product leak into the environment. If so, you may face costly cleanups and liability actions. Also, you can be cited and fined for not meeting the federal requirements for properly operating and maintaining leak detection for your underground storage tanks (USTs).

Note that a simple ATGS will detect leaks only from tanks. To detect leaks from piping, you will need an ATGS that supports connection to line leak detectors.

This checklist can help you avoid some common problems and make sure your ATGS is working as required:

- **Know your ATGS.** Insist that your ATGS installer train you and provide clear instructions for properly operating and maintaining the system.

- **Make sure your ATGS is constantly "on"** and plugged into a power source. This may sound obvious, but inspectors have written many citations when they discovered that the ATGS was "off" and not monitoring for leaks.

- **Respond to alarms.** Ignoring an alarm defeats the purpose for having the ATGS. Don't ignore the "FAIL" alarm. Large leaks have gone undetected when operators ignored an alarm or turned their ATGS off.

- **Run your ATGS in its "test mode"** at least once a month. You must test when the tank is relatively full. Since an ATGS does not detect leaks above the product level, test when the tank is as full as it typically gets (try testing soon after delivery, but after product settles). Also, test frequently: The more frequently you test, the greater the likelihood you will detect leaks as quickly as possible. The earlier you detect a leak, the easier and less costly the cleanup.

- **Have your ATGS maintained and calibrated according to the manufacturer's instructions.** Make sure you read the directions in the manual that came with your ATGS. Use the manufacturer or installer representative's phone number to get answers to any questions you have about using it correctly. Don't hesitate to contact the manufacturer or installer for help.

- **Report problems.** You must report test results indicating a leak to the responsible agency (usually your state environmental agency), generally within 24 hours. You do not need to report if the ATGS is found to be defective, is repaired immediately, recalibrated or replaced, and subsequent monitoring shows tank is tight. You must immediately investigate and confirm all suspected leaks. When in doubt, report.

- **Keep records.** Federal regulations require you to keep the following records:

Keep for at least one year:

- Monthly test results.
- Documentation of all calibration, maintenance, and repair.

Keep for at least five years:

- Any written performance claim for your ATGS. This will usually be an evaluation document signed by a third-party evaluator showing how a sample ATGS performed under test conditions.
- Manufacturer-supplied schedules for calibration and maintenance.

Keep records either at the UST site or at a readily available alternative site, and provide them for inspection upon request.

- **Put ATGS monitoring in the most responsible hands.** Do not rely on the vigilance of part-time or under-trained employees. If necessary, have ATGS alarms go to a central, 24-hour contact or use other mechanisms that put ATGS monitoring in the most responsible hands.

Check state and local regulations. State or local regulations may differ from the federal requirements, so find out which requirements apply to your UST. Check with your responsible agency.