

## UST Registration Tag Clarification

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Do you have your underground petroleum storage tank properly identified? There has been considerable confusion over what identification tags are required on regulated underground storage tanks (UST) in the State of Iowa.

In 2007, the Iowa DNR issued “purple” registration tags to all regulated tanks greater than 1,100 gallons. At that time, these registration tags were dual purpose; they served as the annual tank renewal tags and permanent tank identification tags. The important description that many facilities have overlooked is “permanent tank identification.” The DNR is tracking each tank at your facility by the number indicated on the permanent tags (purple in color) issued to you in 2007. This year, DNR issued renewal tags that are required to be attached to the corresponding permanent tag associated with each tank. You must now have two tags attached to every tank that is greater than 1,100 gallons! It is very important that you follow the instructions included with your renewal tags.

In the past, it was common practice to replace the old tank tags with the new tags. This practice created confusion when the 2007-2008 DNR renewal tags (purple in color) were required to be permanent. Going forward, if your tank is greater than 1,100 gallons, it should always have two (2) DNR tags attached to the tank fill pipe; the permanent tank tag (purple) and the current year renewal tag.

What about small tanks? All regulated tanks 1,100 gallons or less should have been issued a “silver” permanent tag at the time of registration. These tanks do not require annual renewal with the DNR so new tags are not issued every year. The original silver tag that was issued by the DNR must be mounted at the tank fill connection. With all used oil tanks, the tank tags should be mounted at the tank riser pipe used for oil extraction.

All regulated USTs require at least one DNR tag, even tanks that are temporarily closed. If any of these DNR tags are lost or damaged beyond recognition, you should contact the DNR immediately. They will have to issue new tags before you can receive fuel in these tanks. For replacement tags, contact either Tom Collins (515-281-8879) or Paul Nelson (515-281-8779).

In addition to the DNR tags attached at the tank fill pipe, each tank should be properly identified with size and contents. These key identifiers not only help reduce confusion, but they may also help prevent a fuel drop in the wrong tank, or even worse in a monitoring well.

Remember, the purple tag is a permanent tag. Tanks over 1,100 gallons must have both the permanent purple tag and the annual renewal tag to be in compliance.

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