

Oil Storage

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 are now fully in force



Please keep these notes in a convenient place so that they may be referred to when necessary

'The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001' are now fully in force.

The aim of the regulations is to ensure that all oil storage facilities are of a type to prevent environmental pollution from leakage. Generally the regulations apply to non domestic installations. 'Churches' are specifically mentioned though it is not only the church, but any other 'non domestic' building eg church hall etc. Basically the oil storage facility should be fully bunded with an overspill capacity of 110% or a twin walled tank with sensors fitted to test the space between the 'skins' for oil vapour.

The regulations apply to any kind of container with a capacity that exceeds 200 litres which is being used and stored above ground and situated outside a building. The regulations do not apply to wholly underground oil storage facilities as these are covered by the Groundwater Regulations 1998.

Internal, exposed, tanks are also covered by the regulations and in these cases provision must be made for foam connections so that tanks can be sprayed with foam from outside the building.

It is the DAC's opinion that these regulations are a sensible environmentally aware set of regulations designed to minimise environmental pollution from leaks from oil storage facilities.

The regulations require that:-

1. New oil storage facilities comply from 1st March 2002.
2. Existing oil storage facilities at 'significant risk' comply by 1st September 2003.
(comprehensive advice was given in 2003 - if you need a further copy please contact the Property Department at Church House)
3. ALL EXISTING oil storage facilities comply by 1st September 2005.

Comprehensive Advice is available from a number of sources, try:-

- Website - www.environmentagency.gov.uk
- Many companies have developed the skills required to advise on the regulations. Those who are members of OFTEC have a particular code of practice and can give expert advice.
- You may wish to take advice from your usual oil supply company.

Please Also Note

The responsibility for complying with the regulations remains with the person having custody or control of the oil storage facility.

It is possible (though not certain) that your oil supply company may refuse to make a delivery if your oil storage facility does not comply with the regulations. This may occur in order that the delivery company does not expose itself to the risk of prosecution resulting from any pollution emanating from a non compliant storage facility.

ALTERATIONS TO YOUR STORAGE FACILITY MAY REQUIRE A FACULTY