

Interstitial Monitoring (For Tanks)

Description of Release Detection:

Interstitial Monitoring (IM) is a method that looks for evidence of a release in the space between the primary tank and an outer barrier. Examples of secondary containment include but are not limited to; a double-walled tank with an inner and outer tank wall or a single walled tank located within a lined tank pit. The area between the primary tank wall and outer barrier, either the outer wall of a double-walled tank or the lined tank pit, is called the annular/interstitial space. That space may be monitored automatically with electronic sensors or manually for a change in condition. Interstitial spaces of double-walled tanks may be designed for: dry monitoring, wet (brine) monitoring, vacuum or pressure monitoring. Interstitial monitoring devices can be as simple as a dipstick or as sophisticated as an automated system that continuously checks for leaks. Single-walled tanks installed within a lined pit are usually continuously monitored with an in-backfill vapor monitoring system.

Operating and Maintaining an IM System:

- Use the IM system to check for leaks at least once every 30 days.
- Periodically have a qualified UST contractor service the IM system components according to the manufacturer's service instructions.
- Use the owner's manual for operation and maintenance procedures.
- Make sure employees who run, monitor, or maintain the IM system know exactly what they have to do and to whom to report problems.
- Keep the IM areas clean.

Record Keeping:

- Keep results of the IM system activity for the most recent 12 months of operation. At a minimum, a written log indicating release detection results once every 30 days must be kept for a period of one year. Automatic Tank Gauges are often used in conjunction with IM and can print, collect, and store monitoring information.
- Keep all records of calibration, maintenance, and repair of your release detection equipment for at least one year.

If the IM system alarms or indicates a release has occurred, call the UST Management Division within 24 hours at (803) 898-0589.

