

Unified Program Newsletter – June 2026

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CalEPA HMBP/CalARP Unit

Process Safety Performance Indicators for California Accidental Release Prevention Program 4 Facilities

The Process Safety Performance Indicators for CalARP Program 4 facilities are due to the Unified Program Agency (UPA) and to CalEPA by June 30, 2026. Facilities may submit the Process Safety Performance Indicators information to the CalARP@calepa.ca.gov inbox. Facilities may use the [Annual CalARP Process Safety Performance Indicator Form](https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Annual-Process-Safety-Performance-Indicator-Form-Fillable-Template-4.2.2024-1.pdf) (<https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Annual-Process-Safety-Performance-Indicator-Form-Fillable-Template-4.2.2024-1.pdf>), or can submit the equivalent information required by 19 CCR Section 5110.19(h)(1) subsections (A) through (E). Information regarding the requirements and access to the form can also be found on our [website](https://calepa.ca.gov/california-accidental-release-prevention/california-accidental-release-prevention-program-4-for-refineries/#:~:text=Process%20Safety%20Performance%20Indicators%20(PSPI)) ([https://calepa.ca.gov/california-accidental-release-prevention/california-accidental-release-prevention-program-4-for-refineries/#:~:text=Process%20Safety%20Performance%20Indicators%20\(PSPI\)](https://calepa.ca.gov/california-accidental-release-prevention/california-accidental-release-prevention-program-4-for-refineries/#:~:text=Process%20Safety%20Performance%20Indicators%20(PSPI))).

Questions regarding this may be emailed to Elizabeth.Brega@calepa.ca.gov.

Regulation Updates for California Accidental Release Prevention Program 4 Facilities

On April 10, 2026, the Office of Administrative Law approved the amendments to the California Accidental Release Prevention Regulations, Title 19, Division 5, Chapter 2, California Code of Regulations, Sections 5050.3, 5110.1, 5110.13, 5110.16, 5130.6, and 5130.6 (Table 3).

These amendments pertain only to petroleum refineries that are regulated under CalARP Program 4.

The effective date of the regulatory amendments is July 1, 2026.

Rulemaking documents including the final regulatory text and Final Statement of Reasons (FSOR) are available for review at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/rulemaking/>.

Questions regarding this finalized rulemaking may be emailed to Elizabeth.Brega@calepa.ca.gov.

State Water Board

Vacuum, Pressure, or Hydrostatic as a Line Leak Detector

California Code of Regulations, title 23 (Title 23), section 2652(a)(2) requires line leak detectors (LLDs) on buried, pressurized piping to be tested annually at a simulated leak rate equivalent to three gallons per hour (gph) at 10 pounds per square inch (psi). Section 2652(a)(2)(B) allows buried, pressurized piping equipped with vacuum, pressure, or hydrostatic (VPH) monitoring to use the VPH equipment as the system's LLD. The VPH equipment operating as the LLD must be tested using the manufacturer's test method at the leak rate specified in section 2652(a)(2). VPH equipment is not used in lieu of a LLD but is the LLD.

Currently, there is no manufacturer test method available for verifying that VPH systems can detect a release equivalent to three gph at 10 psi. Therefore, VPH systems must also have a testable mechanical or electronic LLD. When an approved test method for VPH becomes available, VPH equipment may be used as an LLD.

For more information on using VPH as a LLD, please contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Certified Unified Program Agency Evaluation Website

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) evaluation staff are updating the [CUPA Evaluation Process Website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/performance-evaluations/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/performance-evaluations/) to align with the amended Title 23. The following webpages have been updated along with their associated citations:

Facility File Selection

The single-walled portion has been updated, and a section on emergency tank systems and Participating Agencies has been added.

CERS Quality Assurance Review

The single-walled UST system component has been removed, and a new component for overfill prevention and piping has been added.

Oversight Inspection

A section regarding office visits and the review of inspection reports and testing documents has been added.

UST Closures

A section regarding GeoTracker, new sampling requirements, and a closure flow chart has been added.

Abandoned USTs Webpage

The abandoned UST definition has been added.

For additional information regarding the CUPA Evaluation Process website, contact Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov.

Single-Walled UST Enforcement Updates

Single-Walled UST Webpage

The Office of Enforcement, UST Enforcement Unit has updated the [Single-Walled UST Initiative](#)

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ust/enforcement/swust.html) webpage to include the current single-walled UST map and list of facilities. The webpage also includes the background and timeline of single-walled UST requirements, enforcement guidance, and links to available funding.

Single-Walled Enforcement Survey

On April 24, 2026, the UST Enforcement Unit distributed follow-up surveys to UPAs with single-walled USTs within their jurisdiction. The data collected from the follow-up survey has been updated on the [single-walled UST map](#) (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0167aef5ced240ddb27331f6988dc8b2>) on the UST Enforcement Unit's single-walled UST webpage.

As of May 6, 2026, a preliminary review of the survey indicates California has:

- 29 single-walled facilities with 82 single-walled UST systems
 - 50 single-walled UST systems were emptied due to affixed red tag(s)
 - 21 single-walled facilities have applied for closure permits
 - 4 single-walled facilities are government-owned with 10 single-walled UST systems
- 6 single-walled facilities emergency tank systems with 11 single-walled UST systems
 - 2 single-walled emergency tank systems are government-owned

For questions regarding single-walled UST enforcement, please contact Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Revisions to Completed UST Forms

State Water Board staff are aware of UPA inspectors requiring completed and signed UST test and designated operator inspection forms to be modified or replaced. If a document was accurate and complete at the time it was signed, the UPA should not request any modifications. Inspections performed by designated operators and tests performed by service technicians represent a snapshot in time. If the documents were complete and correct at the time of the inspection or test, those forms should not be altered later. However, if information in a UST test or inspection form were incorrect at the time the document was signed, the CUPA may require the UST owner or operator to correct the issue using an appropriate method.

For example, if a signed designated operator visual inspection form indicates that no service order existed to address a particular alarm, but a service order is later produced showing that the alarm was addressed prior to the inspection, the inspection document was correct at the time with the information available and the CUPA should not require the owner or operator to modify the document. The service order should be included in the next inspection report.

For more information regarding revisions to completed UST inspection forms, please contact Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov.

Shear Valve Testing

State Water Board staff have received several questions about testing the under-dispenser- containment mechanical release detection equipment during the annual release detection equipment test. If the mechanical release detection equipment in the under-dispenser containment fails for any reason, at any time, it must be replaced with continuous electronic release detection equipment. This requirement applies to the float and chain assembly that interfaces with the shear valves. If the float and chain fail for any reason, they must be replaced with continuous electronic release detection equipment. The shear valve is not required to be replaced if it is functional.

Title 23, section 2663(c) requires service technicians to confirm that the impact shear valve used as part of the UDC monitoring will prevent hazardous substances from dispensing during annual testing. If the shear valve does not stop the flow of product, both the shear valve and the connected float and chain mechanism must be replaced in accordance with section 2652(a)(1)(B). The failed shear valve must be replaced with a functioning shear valve as these components are required by International Fire Code, Chapter 23, section 2306.7.4.

For questions regarding shear valve testing, please contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

New UST Regulatory Requirements Beginning July 1, 2026

Title 23 includes several requirements that will become effective later this year. USTs installed on or after July 1, 2026, must bear a marking, code stamp, or label located inside the sump collar perimeter (See Title 23, section 2641(a)). This label must include:

- Manufacturer identification
- Production location
- Date of manufacture
- Maximum burial depth
- Maximum test pressure
- Openings not equipped with a striker plate, if applicable

Additionally, section 2642(b) requires tanks manufactured on or after July 1, 2026, to provide documentation to the owner confirming that the manufacturer verified continuity within the tank's interstitial space. The requirement for the label to include the production date helps determine whether continuity documentation from the manufacturer is required for the tank. Tanks arriving for installation on or after July 1, 2026, without the required label should be rejected. The continuity documentation must be maintained by the UST owner or operator for the life of the tank as part of the installation records.

Lastly, facilities with pressurized piping that are not routinely staffed must be equipped with continuous interstitial release detection equipment that shuts off the flow of hazardous substance through the piping when a release is detected or when the release detection system malfunctions (See Title 23, section 2652(a)(1)(C)). This requirement, also effective July 1, 2026, will prohibit the use of mechanical or stand-alone release detection equipment that does not shut off power to the turbine. Annular sensors, sump sensors and VPH monitoring systems programmed for fail safe and positive shut-off satisfy this requirement. This requirement does not apply to emergency tank systems that are not routinely staffed.

UPA inspectors should be aware of all unstaffed facilities within their jurisdiction to ensure their release detection equipment will comply with the July 1, 2026, Title 23 requirements.

For more information on new UST requirements that begin July 1, 2026, please contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

UST Certification of Installation/Modification Form

Title 23, section 2642(g) requires the UST Certification of Installation/Modification submittal element to be submitted to the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) within 30 days of an installation inspection. Examples of installation inspections include tank, piping, or containment sump installation inspections. It is the UPA's responsibility to ensure that the CERS submittal includes this element before accepting the submittal.

Evaluation staff will review whether the UST Certification of Installation/Modification is being properly utilized. UPAs that do not correctly utilize the UST Certification of Installation/Modification submittal element may be issued a deficiency or incidental finding.

For questions regarding the UST Certification of Installation/Modification submittal element in CERS, please contact Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov.

Lining USTs for Compatibility

Title 23, section 2640(a)(1)(A) requires UST primary and integral secondary containment to be compatible with the hazardous substance stored. Recently, there has been an increase in owners proposing to line the interior of their USTs under the assumption that doing so makes the UST compatible with emerging fuel blends. This assumption is incorrect. While the lined primary containment may be compatible with the proposed hazardous substance, the secondary containment remains incompatible and therefore does not meet the requirements of section 2640(a).

When reviewing UST plan checks, UPA inspectors should ensure that the UST owner and operator are not proposing to line their USTs to convert to a newer fuel that is incompatible with the existing secondary containment. For reference, fiberglass USTs manufactured prior to 1990 are incompatible with fuel blends above E10, and lining these tanks would not resolve the secondary containment incompatibility.

For more information on lining USTs to meet compatibility requirements, please contact Austin Lemire-Baeten at (916) 327-5612 or Austin.Lemire-Baeten@waterboards.ca.gov.

Omntec Delivery Defender Lite Overfill Alarm

Audible and visual alarms are an overfill prevention method available for UST systems equipped with secondarily contained vent and riser piping. When a facility with multiple USTs utilizes an audible and visual alarm for overfill prevention, the annunciator must be capable of alarming independently for each UST.

The Omntec Delivery Defender Lite Overfill Alarm (DDL) can monitor up to four USTs simultaneously and can provide audible and visual alarms for each individual UST.

During an inspection, the CUPA inspector should verify that the facility's overfill prevention method is properly installed and functioning as required. If the annunciator does not have the capability to alarm independently for each UST, the CUPA should cite UST Program Violation 2031002 and ensure that the UST owner or operator installs compliant overfill prevention equipment.

As a reminder, the DDL is not included in Local Guidance Letter 113 (LG 113) because it is not release detection equipment and LG 113 only includes release detection testing or methods.

For more information regarding overfill prevention methods, please contact Stephanie Duong at (916) 322-8544 or Stephanie.Duong@waterboards.ca.gov.

DTSC

New and Revised DTSC Websites

DTSC's Regulatory Assistance Office (RAO) receives thousands of inquiries each year. Many of these questions are best answered by other programs within DTSC such as obtaining or reactivating an ID number, fee payments, environmental concerns, and similar non-hazardous waste management questions. As a result, the RAO created the [Regulatory Assistance Questions](https://dtsc.ca.gov/regulatory-assistance-questions/) webpage (https://dtsc.ca.gov/regulatory-assistance-questions/) which includes a short list of contacts for commonly referred inquiries, and a new RAO inquiry form for those seeking guidance on hazardous waste management questions. The RAO encourages both the regulated community and the CUPAs to submit their questions through the form. The website is linked on the [Regulatory Assistance Office](https://dtsc.ca.gov/rao/) homepage (https://dtsc.ca.gov/rao/) and many other regulatory assistance webpages. Additionally, the RAO recently modernized the [Generators](https://dtsc.ca.gov/generators/) webpage (https://dtsc.ca.gov/generators/). The website was redesigned to be simple and intended to better direct hazardous waste generators to find information they may be seeking.

2025 National Biennial Hazardous Waste Report Cycle Open!

The 2025 National Biennial Hazardous Waste Report (Biennial Report, or BR) cycle opened on January 2, 2026, and was due March 1, 2026. Even though the report is now past due, we are still accepting late submissions. The BR is completed through U.S. EPA's [RCRAInfo](https://rcrainfo.epa.gov/rcrainfoprod/action/secured/login) System (https://rcrainfo.epa.gov/rcrainfoprod/action/secured/login). Sites are required to file the 2025 BR if in any one month during 2025, they met any of the following conditions:

- Generated more than 2,200 pounds of RCRA non-acute hazardous waste OR
- Generated or accumulated more than 2.2 pounds of RCRA acute hazardous waste OR
- Generated or accumulated greater than 220 pounds of spill cleanup materials contaminated with RCRA acute hazardous waste OR
- Treated, stored, or disposed of RCRA hazardous waste on-site.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control has sent email and mail notices to sites whose records show have met the reporting requirements to inform them to file. If you receive any questions regarding the Biennial Report, refer them to the resources below.

Website (includes training video and guide): <https://dtsc.ca.gov/biennial-reports-information/>

Email: brsstaff@dtsc.ca.gov

Toll-free Number: 1-800-618-6942, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Pacific Time

In Person Environmental Sampling for Enforcement Training – Program Update

DTSC is pleased to announce an upcoming **In-Person Environmental Sampling for Enforcement Training**, an important program designed to strengthen field capabilities and promote statewide consistency in environmental sampling procedures.

Over the past year, this hands-on training has been delivered at multiple locations across California. DTSC remains committed to offering this popular training to support our partner agencies.

Upcoming Training Session Stanislaus County

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location:

Stanislaus County Department of
Environmental Resources
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, CA 95358

Registration:

Registration is now open. Please use the link below to reserve your spot:

<https://forms.office.com/g/jnBTyhqH17>


Training Overview

This course provides practical instruction on environmental sampling techniques for enforcement activities, including:

- Planning and preparation for field sampling
- Sampling strategies and selection of appropriate equipment
- Identifying and requesting relevant laboratory analyses
- Interpreting analytical results
- Presenting findings to support legally defensible cases
- Hands-on practice using sampling equipment and collecting/documenting various sample types

We encourage early registration, as space is limited and demand for this training remains high.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at dtsc_cupatrainers@dtsc.ca.gov.



Environmental Sampling for Enforcement

Only 30 Seats Available

Exclusive Training for the CUPA Audience

Location: Stanislaus County
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, CA 95358

Date: June 25, 2026
Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00PM

To Enroll: <https://forms.office.com/g/jnBTyhqH17>

References or links to information cited in this newsletter are subject to change. CalEPA is interested in your comments and suggestions regarding the Unified Program monthly newsletter. Please email your comments and suggestions to: cupa@calepa.ca.gov.

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