

SPILL PREVENTION CONTROL & COUNTERMEASURES (SPCC) PLANS

The purpose of the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule is to help facilities prevent a discharge of oil into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. This rule is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's oil spill prevention program and was published under the authority of Section 311(j)(1)(C) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) in 1974. The rule may be found at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112.



A facility is covered by the SPCC rule if it has an aggregate aboveground oil storage capacity greater than 1,320 U.S. gallons or a completely buried storage capacity greater than 42,000 U.S. gallons and there is a reasonable expectation of an oil discharge into or upon navigable waters of the U.S. or adjoining shorelines. Generally, most all facilities meeting the above noted volume criteria are also considered to meet the "reasonable expectation" criteria.

A facility that meets the criterion described above must comply with the SPCC rule by preventing oil spills and developing and implementing an SPCC Plan.

The owner or operator of the facility must develop and implement an SPCC Plan that describes oil handling operations, spill prevention practices, discharge or drainage controls, and the personnel, equipment and resources at the facility that are used to prevent oil spills from reaching navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. Although each SPCC Plan is unique to the facility, there are certain elements that must be described in every plan including:

- Operating procedures at the facility to prevent oil spills;
- Control measures (such as secondary containment) installed to prevent oil spills from entering navigable waters or adjoining shorelines; and
- Countermeasures to contain, cleanup, and mitigate the effects of an oil spill that has impacted navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.

Significant environmental non-compliance penalties may be assessed for failure to prepare or follow an SPCC plan and for discharges that result from failure to follow the requirements of the regulation. With our significant experience, EcoTec can prepare, certify and implement a Spill Prevention, Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan, as well as provide appropriate training, at your facility.