

# Maine Fuel Board Tank Setter Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is an essential component of leak detection systems in tanks?**
  - A. Visual inspections**
  - B. Electronic sensors or alarms**
  - C. Irregular spot checks**
  - D. Paper-based monitoring**
- 2. When abandoning an underground tank, which method must be avoided to prevent safety hazards?**
  - A. Filling with sand**
  - B. Removing the tank**
  - C. Pulling a vacuum**
  - D. Cutting the tank**
- 3. How often does a technician need to undergo refresher training?**
  - A. Every year**
  - B. Every 2 years**
  - C. Every 3 years**
  - D. Every 5 years**
- 4. What is a common risk associated with improper fuel storage?**
  - A. Spills that could contaminate the soil**
  - B. Increased sales due to more visible tanks**
  - C. Better fuel longevity**
  - D. Improved customer satisfaction**
- 5. Tanks that are between 501-2,000 WC must be how far from the property line?**
  - A. 15ft**
  - B. 20ft**
  - C. 25ft**
  - D. 30ft**

- 6. How can tank setters ensure compliance with safety regulations?**
- A. By regularly updating training and procedures**
  - B. Relying on word of mouth**
  - C. Only focusing on customer satisfaction**
  - D. Neglecting routine checks**
- 7. What is a common method used for testing underground fuel tank integrity?**
- A. Visual inspection**
  - B. Soil sampling**
  - C. Pressure testing**
  - D. Ultrasonic testing**
- 8. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of regular tank maintenance?**
- A. Reduced risks of spills**
  - B. Increased operational costs**
  - C. Longer tank lifespan**
  - D. Improved compliance with regulations**
- 9. What constitutes a “hazardous substance” in the context of fuel storage?**
- A. Any substance that may pose a risk to health or the environment if released**
  - B. A substance that is only dangerous in large quantities**
  - C. Only chemicals that are toxic to humans**
  - D. Any substance that is flammable**
- 10. What happens to the fuel in a tank during a temperature change?**
- A. It remains constant**
  - B. It expands or contracts**
  - C. It evaporates**
  - D. It solidifies**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. C**
- 3. C**
- 4. A**
- 5. C**
- 6. A**
- 7. C**
- 8. B**
- 9. A**
- 10. B**

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is an essential component of leak detection systems in tanks?**

- A. Visual inspections**
- B. Electronic sensors or alarms**
- C. Irregular spot checks**
- D. Paper-based monitoring**

Electronic sensors or alarms are a critical component of leak detection systems in tanks because they provide real-time monitoring and immediate alerts when a leak is detected. These systems use advanced technology to continuously check for changes in pressure, liquid levels, or the presence of specific substances, ensuring that any potential leaks are identified quickly. This capability is crucial for preventing environmental hazards, ensuring safety, and adhering to regulatory requirements. Electronic sensors can often detect leaks that may not be visible through regular inspections, thus enhancing the overall safety and integrity of the tank system. Additionally, these electronic systems can often be integrated with monitoring software to streamline data collection and incident response. While visual inspections can help identify obvious signs of leaks, they are not as reliable or immediate as electronic systems. Irregular spot checks lack the consistency and efficiency needed for effective leak detection, and paper-based monitoring methods are outdated and prone to human error, making them less effective in managing the integrity of tank systems compared to electronic sensors or alarms.

**2. When abandoning an underground tank, which method must be avoided to prevent safety hazards?**

- A. Filling with sand**
- B. Removing the tank**
- C. Pulling a vacuum**
- D. Cutting the tank**

When abandoning an underground tank, pulling a vacuum is a method that must be avoided due to the inherent safety hazards it presents. This technique can create a situation where the tank could collapse, especially if it is not properly supported or if there is not enough structural integrity in the surrounding soil. Additionally, pulling a vacuum could potentially lead to the release of hazardous vapors or materials that may be trapped inside the tank, posing risks to both the environment and human health. Therefore, safe abandonment practices favor methods that ensure the tank is properly filled or removed, rather than those that might destabilize the tank structure or create dangerous conditions during the abandonment process.

**3. How often does a technician need to undergo refresher training?**

- A. Every year**
- B. Every 2 years**
- C. Every 3 years**
- D. Every 5 years**

Refresher training is essential in maintaining the competency and safety of technicians working with fuel systems. A technician is required to undergo refresher training every 3 years to ensure that their skills and knowledge remain current and in compliance with the regulations set by the Maine Fuel Board. This three-year interval allows technicians to stay updated on the latest best practices, safety protocols, and any changes in regulations or technology related to tank setting and fuel handling. Regular refresher training helps mitigate risks and enhances overall safety in the field.

**4. What is a common risk associated with improper fuel storage?**

- A. Spills that could contaminate the soil**
- B. Increased sales due to more visible tanks**
- C. Better fuel longevity**
- D. Improved customer satisfaction**

Improper fuel storage presents a significant risk of spills that can lead to soil contamination. When fuel is not stored correctly, leaks or overflows can occur, causing hazardous materials to seep into the ground. This contamination can affect local ecosystems, harm wildlife, and pose serious health risks to nearby communities. Additionally, soil contamination can result in costly remediation efforts and regulatory penalties, highlighting the importance of adhering to proper fuel storage practices to avoid these environmental hazards. Thus, recognizing the risk of spills underscores the need for diligent monitoring and safe storage solutions.

**5. Tanks that are between 501-2,000 WC must be how far from the property line?**

- A. 15ft**
- B. 20ft**
- C. 25ft**
- D. 30ft**

For tanks that are between 501 and 2,000 gallons working capacity (WC), maintaining a distance of 25 feet from the property line is essential for safety and regulatory compliance. This distance is in place to minimize the potential risks associated with hazardous materials. Keeping tanks at this specified distance helps to ensure that in the event of a leak or spill, the hazardous materials do not pose a risk to neighboring properties. It also provides adequate space for emergency responders to operate safely and efficiently if needed. Local codes and regulations often dictate these separation distances to enhance community safety and reduce liability. While other distances could be set for different capacities or types of installations, 25 feet is the established requirement for this particular range of tank size, balancing safety with practicality for tank operations.

**6. How can tank setters ensure compliance with safety regulations?**

- A. By regularly updating training and procedures**
- B. Relying on word of mouth**
- C. Only focusing on customer satisfaction**
- D. Neglecting routine checks**

Regularly updating training and procedures is essential for tank setters to ensure compliance with safety regulations. This practice guarantees that personnel are well-versed in the latest industry standards, safety protocols, and regulatory changes that may arise over time. Continuous education and training programs help workers stay informed about best practices, new technologies, and methods for mitigating risks associated with tank installations. In contrast, relying on word of mouth can lead to outdated practices and misunderstandings about safety requirements, as information may not be accurate or reflective of current regulations. Focusing solely on customer satisfaction, while important, does not inherently prioritize safety compliance, potentially leading to oversights in adhering to necessary procedures. Neglecting routine checks is counterproductive; systematic inspections are crucial for identifying and addressing potential hazards before they become significant issues, ensuring equipment integrity and safe operation. Thus, a proactive approach to training and procedural updates is fundamental to maintaining safety compliance in tank setting operations.

**7. What is a common method used for testing underground fuel tank integrity?**

- A. Visual inspection**
- B. Soil sampling**
- C. Pressure testing**
- D. Ultrasonic testing**

Pressure testing is a commonly used method for assessing the integrity of underground fuel tanks because it evaluates whether the tank can maintain a certain pressure over time, indicating that there are no leaks or structural failures. This method involves filling the tank with a liquid, typically water or another testing fluid, and applying pressure. If the pressure remains stable, it suggests that the tank does not have leaks and is structurally sound. This technique helps ensure that potentially hazardous fuel does not escape into the surrounding soil or groundwater, which is crucial for environmental protection and regulatory compliance. Other methods, while useful, do not provide the same level of assurance specific to identifying leaks under pressure conditions. Soil sampling can help identify contaminants but does not directly measure the tank's structural integrity. Visual inspection may reveal obvious external issues but is often inadequate for detecting small leaks. Ultrasonic testing is primarily used for evaluating the thickness of tank materials and detecting corrosion but may not fully assess the tank's ability to hold pressure over time.

**8. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of regular tank maintenance?**

- A. Reduced risks of spills**
- B. Increased operational costs**
- C. Longer tank lifespan**
- D. Improved compliance with regulations**

Regular tank maintenance provides several key benefits that enhance safety, efficiency, and compliance. One significant advantage is the reduction of risks of spills. Routine inspections and maintenance help identify potential leaks or weaknesses in the tank structure before they become serious problems. By addressing these issues proactively, the likelihood of spills is minimized, protecting the environment and maintaining safety standards. Another benefit is the extension of the tank's lifespan. Regular maintenance activities, such as cleaning and inspecting tanks, can prevent corrosion and deterioration that typically shorten a tank's usable life. By keeping tanks in good condition, operators can avoid the costs and logistical challenges of premature replacements. Improved compliance with regulations is also a critical outcome of regular maintenance. Many regulatory bodies mandate specific maintenance and inspection protocols to ensure that tanks meet safety and environmental standards. Adhering to these regulations not only avoids penalties but also demonstrates a commitment to responsible operation. In stark contrast to these benefits, increased operational costs would not be associated with regular maintenance practices. Instead, regular maintenance is typically seen as a cost-saving measure that reduces the likelihood of expensive emergencies and fines stemming from non-compliance or environmental incidents.

**9. What constitutes a “hazardous substance” in the context of fuel storage?**

- A. Any substance that may pose a risk to health or the environment if released**
- B. A substance that is only dangerous in large quantities**
- C. Only chemicals that are toxic to humans**
- D. Any substance that is flammable**

A "hazardous substance" is defined as any material that can pose a potential threat to human health or the environment if it is released or improperly managed. This broad definition encompasses a wide range of substances, including chemicals that may be toxic, corrosive, reactive, or flammable. The key aspect is the potential risk associated with the substance, rather than solely its physical properties or the quantity present. In this context, it is crucial to understand that hazardous substances are not limited to those that are toxic to humans or only dangerous at high concentrations. A substance can be classified as hazardous due to various attributes, such as its environmental impact, ability to cause health problems upon exposure, or propensity to create dangerous situations when released. This recognition of a wider array of risks emphasizes the importance of safety measures and regulations in fuel storage. By identifying option A as the correct answer, the definition aligns with established regulatory frameworks that govern the management of hazardous materials.

**10. What happens to the fuel in a tank during a temperature change?**

- A. It remains constant**
- B. It expands or contracts**
- C. It evaporates**
- D. It solidifies**

When the temperature changes, the fuel in a tank experiences thermal expansion or contraction, which is a fundamental physical property of liquids. As temperature increases, fuel molecules gain energy and move apart, causing the liquid to expand. Conversely, when the temperature decreases, the molecules lose energy, move closer together, and the liquid contracts. This property is crucial for tank setters to understand because improper accounting for temperature changes can lead to overfilling or underfilling of tanks, which can cause operational issues, safety concerns, or financial losses. Knowledge of how fuel behaves during temperature fluctuations helps ensure that tanks are designed and operated safely and efficiently, maintaining the appropriate levels and minimizing waste or overflow.