



SPCC

Fuel and Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Program for Farmers

This fact sheet will assist you, as a farmer, in understanding your obligations under the Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures program, otherwise known as the SPCC program.

What is SPCC?

The Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures program (40 CFR Part 112), abbreviated as SPCC, is a set of federal regulations within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response that govern the control of oil, greases and fuels. The goal of the SPCC program is to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. Oil spills can cause injuries to people and damage to the environment. A key element of this program calls for farmers and other facilities to have an oil spill prevention plan, called an SPCC plan. These plans can help farmers prevent oil spills, which can damage water resources needed for farming operations.

What is SPC?

The Spill Prevention and Control program, abbreviated as SPC, establishes requirements in Louisiana for contingency planning and implementation of operating procedures and best management practices to prevent and control the discharge of pollutants resulting from spill events of oil of any kind, including fuel and substances listed in Chapter 9 of LAC 33I.3931. The preparation of an SPC plan is required for any facility or person meeting applicable criteria.

Both the state SPC and the federal SPCC plans can be in one document – if all required information for each plan is included.

What is considered a farm under SPCC?

Under SPCC, a farm is: “a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year.”

Is my farm covered by SPCC?

SPCC applies to a farm which:

- Stores, transfers, uses, or consumes oil or oil products such as diesel fuel, gasoline, lube oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil or animal fat, *and*
- Stores more than **1,320 U.S. gallons** in aboveground containers or more than 42,000 U.S. gallons in completely buried containers, *and*
- Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers or streams.

SPCC Tips

Count only containers of oil that have a storage capacity of 55 U.S. gallons or more.

One way to reduce your total storage capacity is to purchase new and store used hydraulic and motor oil in drums smaller than 55 gallons. The smaller drums can be nested inside a 55-gallon drum for secondary containment.

Adjacent or nonadjacent parcels, either leased or owned, may be considered separate facilities for SPCC purposes. Containers on separate parcels (that the farmer identifies as separate facilities based on how they are operated) do not need to be added together in determining whether the 1,320-gallon applicability threshold is met.

If your farm has more than 1,320 gallons of fuel or oil, your farm needs an SPCC plan.

SPCC Tips

You may self-certify your own plan if your farm has no aboveground container or tank capacity greater than 5,000 gallons.

If my farm is covered by SPCC, what should I do?

The SPCC program requires you to prepare and implement an SPCC plan. If you already have a plan, maintain it. If you do not have a plan, you should prepare and implement one.

Many farmers will need to have their plans certified by a professional engineer. You may be eligible to self-certify your amended plan, however, if your farm has a total oil storage capacity between 1,320 and 10,000 gallons and no single tank greater than 5,000 gallon capacity, in aboveground containers and the farm has not had spills in the past. If your farm has storage capacity of more than 10,000 gallons, a tank greater than 5,000 gallons, any underground storage tanks or has had an oil spill in recent years, your SPCC plan may need to be prepared and certified by a professional engineer.

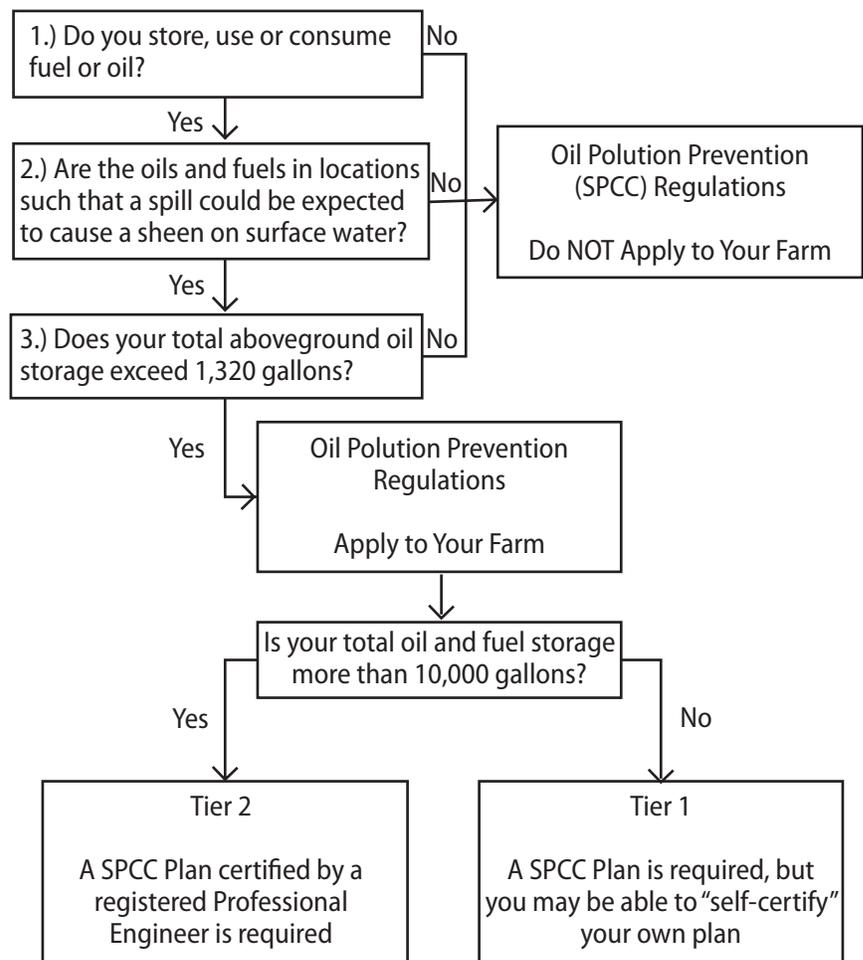
SPCC Tips

1. **Tier 1 Farms** have a fuel/oil storage capacity between 1,320 and 10,000 gallons and no single tank greater than 5,000 gallons. Farmers can self-certify their own plans.
2. **Tier 2 Farms** have a fuel/oil storage greater than 10,000 gallons and/or a tank of 5,000 gallon capacity. SPCC plan must be certified by a professional engineer.

When should I prepare and implement a plan?

An extension to the deadline for developing and implementing SPCC plans was given by the Environmental Protection Agency on Oct. 17, 2011. All farms must have a self-certified plan or one developed by a professional engineer and all on-farm modifications completed by May 10, 2013.

Is your farm covered by SPCC?



What should I do if my farm is covered by SPCC?

1. Write or hire someone to write a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan.
2. Self-certify, or, as necessary, have a professional engineer certify the SPCC plan.
3. Implement the SPCC plan on your farm. Your storage facilities must include spill controls such as secondary containment and overflow prevention procedures and/or devices.
4. Revise and update the SPCC plan, as needed or at least every five years. This process will require documentation and may also require plan re-certification as changes occur that affect the potential for an oil spill on your farm (for example, installing a new tank or moving an old tank). If you do have a reportable spill, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may dictate changes to your SPCC plan.

SPCC Tips

Nurse tanks or tanks on wheels are classified as mobile refuelers and **are not included in the farm's total fuel capacity**. They do not require dedicated "sized or engineered" secondary containment but must have absorbant material readily available in case of a spill. These tanks should be positioned to prevent a discharge (e.g., away from ditches).

I have a Tier 1 farm, how do I write and/or self-certify an SPCC Plan?

You have the OPTION of preparing your own farm's SPCC plan using a form provided by the EPA. A copy of the template form can be downloaded from: www.epa.gov/oem/docs/oil/spcc/tier1template.pdf. Due to the complexity and thoroughness of the plan, however, you should consider hiring a professional to write and certify the plan.

What information will I need to prepare an SPCC Plan for my farm?

- A list of the oil containers at the farm by parcel (including the contents and location of each container).
- A brief description of the procedures that you will use to prevent oil spills (for example, steps you will use to transfer fuel from a storage tank to your farm vehicles that reduce the possibility of a fuel spill).
- A brief description of the measures you installed to prevent oil from reaching water.
- A brief description of the measures you will use to contain and clean up an oil spill to water, if one occurs.
- A list of emergency contacts and first responders.

Containment pans are a relatively inexpensive way to contain fuel in case of a spill or tank rupture.



SPCC Tips

If you have a Tier 1 farm, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office to see if there is cost-share assistance available to develop a certified SPCC plan.

Plan Templates can be found at:

www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/tier1temp.htm

Once an SPCC Plan is developed, it is stored on the farm. It is not submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for review or approval.

My farm stores a lot of fuel and oils (Tier 2). How do I prepare my SPCC plan?

If your oil storage capacity exceeds 10,000 gallons and/or any single tank contains more than 5,000 gallons in above ground tanks, you **MUST** have the SPCC plan prepared and certified by a registered professional engineer. You can expect the cost to be approximately \$1,500 to \$3,000.

A representative of the engineering company will visit your farm so the plan can be properly developed and the certification can be given. If you don't have secondary containment or spill prevention measures in place, guidelines will be provided within the SPCC plan, and you will need to implement those recommendations as soon as possible or at most six months after the SPCC plan is certified. Make sure the engineering company provides you with an opportunity to participate in plan development (for example, in evaluating your options for secondary containment and tank spill prevention practices).

What spill prevention measures should I implement and include in my SPCC plan?

- Use containers suitable for the oil stored. For example, use a container designed for flammable liquids to store gasoline.
- Identify contractors or other local people who can help you clean up an oil spill.
- Provide overfill prevention for your oil storage containers. You could use a high-level alarm

or audible vent or establish a procedure to fill containers.

- Provide effective, appropriately sized secondary containment for bulk storage containers, such as a dike or a remote impoundment. The containment must be able to hold the full capacity of the container plus possible rainfall. The dike may be constructed of earth or concrete. A double-walled tank also may suffice.
- Provide effective, general, secondary containment to address the most likely discharge where you transfer oil to and from containers and for mobile refuelers, such as fuel nurse tanks mounted on trucks or trailers. For example, you may use sorbent materials, drip pans or curbing for these areas.

SPCC Tips

Secondary containment is needed to prevent a spill of oil or fuel from entering surface waters. Discharges such as these are violations of both state and federal environmental laws.

- Periodically inspect and test pipes and containers. You should visually inspect aboveground pipes and inspect aboveground containers following industry standards. You must "leak test" buried pipes when they are installed or repaired. EPA recommends you keep a written record of your inspections.

- Where possible, place oil storage containers under roof to minimize storm water contact with oily substances, such as fuel nurse tanks mounted on trucks or trailers. For example, you may use sorbent materials, drip pans or curbing for these areas.

Portable tanks or nurse tanks are exempt from the SPCC rule and are not counted in the farm's total oil/fuel volume. Even though "sized or engineered" secondary containment is not required, farms need to have sufficient amounts of absorbent material on-hand to contain spills. Care should be taken to minimize the potential that fuel could drain into streams or bayous in case of a spill. Any such discharge event is in violation of state and federal environmental laws.



How and when do I maintain my SPCC plan?

Amend and update your SPCC plan when changes are made to the farm. For example, if you add new storage containers (such as tanks) that are 55 gallons or larger or if you purchase or lease parcels with containers that are 55 gallons or larger, you must amend and update your plan. You also must review your plan every five years to make sure it includes any changes in oil storage at your farm.

What should I do if I have an oil spill?

- Activate your SPCC plan's procedures to prevent the oil spill from reaching a creek, river or any drainage to waters of the state.
- Implement spill cleanup and mitigation procedures outlined in your plan.
- Notify the National Response Center (NRC) at 800-424-8802 if you have an oil discharge to waters or adjoining shorelines.
- If the amount of oil spilled to water is more than 42 gallons on two different occasions within a 12-month period or more than 1,000 gallons to water in a single spill event, notify your EPA regional office in writing.

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SPCC Tips

For more information:

Read the full SPCC rule and additional resources at

www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc

Visit a list of SPCC Plan Developers in Louisiana at

www.lsuagcenter.com/en/environment/conservation/fuel_oil/List-of-SPCC-Plan-Developers-in-Louisiana.htm