

## **Regulations on Oil Storage in Wales**

The regulations to protect the environment and properties as a result of spills from oil storage containers came into force in Wales from 15 March 2016 and will be extended to all tanks from **15 March 2020**.

The regulations set standards for oil storage facilities which aim to prevent the escape of oil and the resulting risk of water pollution and damage to land and property. The principal requirement is for secondary containment to prevent any leaks from an oil storage facility escaping into the wider environment. These requirements apply to all new oil storage facilities from 15 March 2016. Existing oil storage facilities serving non-domestic properties will now need to be compliant from **15 March 2020**. Domestic storage tanks in place before 15 March 2016 remain exempt until they are replaced.

Agricultural fuel oil storage facilities, which had been covered by the Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations (SSAFO) 2010, are now included within the new regulations. The new standards are broadly similar to those already in place, so storage systems which complied with the SSAFO standards are unlikely to need any changes. This ensures a common standard applies to all oil storage in Wales, however does remove an exemption for old agricultural fuel oil storage facilities which were in existence before 1991.

Similar regulations already apply in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

The Welsh Government have published Guidance on the Regulations, which is available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/oil-storage-regulations.pdf>

Natural Resources Wales, as the regulator, have published a Frequently Asked Questions document, which is available at:

<https://naturalresources.wales/media/681287/osr-wales-faq-rt-pc-final-draft-v2-01022017.pdf>