



# Water in Petroleum Storage Tanks

## BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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Madison, WI 53708  
(608) 224-4942  
datcp.wi.gov

## RESOURCES

Wis. Admin. Code ATPC 93  
[http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/atcp/090/93](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/090/93)

Wis. Admin. Code ATPC 94  
[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/atcp/090/94](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/090/94)

Wis. Stat. 168  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/168>

Contaminated Fuel: Tank Pump Outs Fact Sheet  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/ContaminatedFuel-PumpOuts.pdf>

Tank Specialty Firm listing  
[https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List\\_of\\_Tank\\_Specialty\\_Firm\\_Registrations.pdf](https://mydatcp.wi.gov/documents/dtcp/List_of_Tank_Specialty_Firm_Registrations.pdf)

## What if there is water in the tank?

- Water may not exceed the following depths, as measured with water-indicating paste, in any tank used in storing the following fuels for retail sale (Wisconsin Administrative Code § ATPC 94.320):
  - Gasoline-alcohol blends, biodiesel, biodiesel blends, and E85 = ¼ inch
  - Aviation gas and aviation turbine fuel = 1 inch
  - Gasoline, diesel, gasoline-ether, kerosene, and other fuels = 2 inches
- If the water level exceeds the measurements above, the water must be removed within 5 days. (Wis. Admin. Code § ATPC 93.605(1)(g)3)
- If the tank water level exceeds the fuel type's required maximum listed above:
  - Shut down the pumps immediately to prevent sale of the contaminated fuel.
  - Contact DATCP: (608) 224-4942 or [datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov](mailto:datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov).
  - DO NOT pump out the contaminated fuel without DATCP authorization.
    - Pumping out suspected contaminated fuel without Weights and Measures inspector supervision is a violation of Wis. Admin. Code § ATPC 94.100(8)(b).
  - See our [Contaminated Fuel: Tank Pump Outs](#) fact sheet for additional information.
- A precision tightness testing of the piping and tank, including the ullage portion of the tank, must be performed with passing results before the tank can be returned to service.
- The tank system may be returned to service only after inspection and fuel testing by a Weights and Measures inspector. Unsupervised weekend pump outs due to water in the tank are not permitted.

## Prohibited Practices

- Sale of fuels in Wisconsin that do not meet national fuel quality specifications as required by [Wis. Admin. Code ATPC 94](#) are prohibited.
  - Fuels which fail to meet the required fuel specifications must be shut down until a pump out or blend is completed under the supervision of DATCP. The system may be reopened as soon as the product contained in the tank is verified by DATCP to meet the required operational and technical standards per [Wis. Admin. Code § ATPC 94.100\(8\)\(b\)](#).

Any fuel that is misidentified as to name or grade cannot be sold in Wisconsin per [Wis. Stat. Ch. § 168.14\(2\)](#).