

GUIDANCE NOTE

THE OIL STORAGE REGULATIONS THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION (OIL STORAGE) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2001

From September 2005, anyone who stores more than 200 litres of oil in tanks or containers above ground (except domestic heating oil users storing under 3500 litres) will be required to:

- Store the oil in a suitable container
- Use secondary containment (bunded tanks) to contain at least 110% of the oil in a tank or 25% of oil held in drums
- Make sure secondary containment is leakproof
- Locks must be kept on all taps and valves
- Pipework protected from corrosion and frost damage

Applies to all businesses, schools hospitals, churches, museums, halls etc.

These Regulations do **not** apply in Wales but are recommended good practice by the Environment Agency.

All new work and installations **must** comply with these regulations in Wales.

Implications for the Church in Wales

If any new or replacement oil tanks are being installed, they must be bunded (suppliers and architects should know this).

Parishes should try and meet the standard of the English regulations and should make sure Quinquennial architects are picking the issue up in their surveys.

If a parish does not meet the regulations standard and there is a pollution incident, it will be harder to defend that the Parish acted reasonably.

This is likely to become a statutory requirement in Wales in the future but there is no timetable for this.

Sept 2005

