

## FRONT COVER PROMOTION

# UNDERSTANDING THE NEW OIL STORAGE REGS

**Chris Golden from MidasTanks offers some advice on siting oil tanks safely, so they comply with the latest regulations.**

Protecting the environment is an important factor when storing oil, which is why new regulations have recently come into force. Different rules may apply depending on whether the installation is domestic or commercial. If the tank is just used to store oil for a single family dwelling, it's classed as domestic.

In England and Wales, domestic tanks up to 2,500 litre (550 gallon) capacity are covered by the Building Regulations, and don't normally need to be bunded. However, where the risk of pollution from a potential oil spill is high, you'll need to install a bunded tank. Factors which influence this are:

- *If the tank is sited within 10m of 'controlled water' such as a stream, ditch, river, lake or coastal water*
- *If oil spillage could run into an open drain*
- *If the tank is within 50m of a well, borehole or spring*
- *If there is a risk of collision (if the tank is near a road or driveway)*

In Scotland, all new installations of oil storage tanks over 2,500 litres must be bunded as per Scottish Building Standards.

If there is any doubt about whether a single skin or bunded tank is needed, you should undertake a risk assessment using



Left: Midas offers a wide range of tanks to help engineers and their customers to comply with the new regulations.

OFTEC's Document TI/133P. If you are installing a domestic tank over 2,500 litres, it should be bunded anyway. There is now a huge range of tanks to choose from. Midas currently has 13 different types, with bunded models from 1,200 to 2,400 litres and a new 5,000 litre version available soon. Designed to comply fully with the relevant Building Regulations, Midas tanks are maintenance free and are fully guaranteed. They offer many unique features to help store oil safely such as:

- *Revolutionary 45 degree front filling access. Designed to minimize the risk of spillage when oil is being delivered.*
- *Safe and secure design in a compact format.*
- *Unique Midas Ezi Gauge gives an accurate reading of the fuel level in the tank.*

For very large tanks and commercial oil storage tanks, new regulations now apply in England. The third and final phase of the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations came into force on September 1st 2005. The new regulations affect domestic installations over 3,500 litres

and commercial premises (such as schools, factories, offices, hotels and shops) where over 200 litres of oil is stored above ground.

To give people a chance to comply, the regulations have been introduced gradually.

- *From March 1st 2002, all new commercial oil tank installations had to be bunded.*
- *By September 1st 2003, all existing installations deemed to be 'at risk' had to be bunded. 'At risk' means near a watercourse, or if a spillage could get into a watercourse easily.*
- *By September 1st 2005, all commercial installations – both existing and new – have to be bunded.*

Anyone who doesn't comply with the regulations is breaking the law. If a tank doesn't comply and it leaks causing pollution, the Environment Agency may impose a heavy fine.

With the wide range of tanks available now, there's no excuse for not complying with the regulations. Environmental safety is of paramount importance, and it's something that Midas has taken seriously with the design of all its tanks.

Left: 1350HM bunded oil storage tank from Midas.

OHN enquiry number 205