



CHURCH OF IRELAND
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TO: PARISHES IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

RE: OIL STORAGE REGULATIONS

Oil storage installations in the Republic of Ireland should meet the requirements of approved document J of the Building Regulations whereby storage tanks being used for the above ground storage of oil, whether inside or outside a building, should have secondary containment. A secondary containment system (e.g. a bund, which is an outer wall or enclosure designed to contain the contents of an inner tank or drip tray) must be provided to catch any oil leaking from the container or its ancillary pipework and equipment. This can be in the form of an integrally banded tank, or a separate construction around the tank.

Premises used wholly or mainly as domestic dwellings having an oil storage tank with a capacity of less than 2,500 litres do not generally require a bund. However, where an oil leak would present a significant risk of water pollution, a bund should be provided.

Premises such as Churches and Schools would generally have larger capacity oil tanks and should have secondary containment provided.

Where practicable, above ground oil storage containers should **not** be located within 10 metres of any waterway or 50 metres of any well, spring, or borehole due to risk of pollution of groundwater or surface water.

In accordance with best practice in relation to oil storage, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Tanks or other containers must be strong enough to hold oil without leaking or bursting.
- Oil tanks/containers must be positioned to avoid damage (e.g. by impact from vehicular traffic).
- The secondary containment (bund) must have sufficient capacity to contain 110% of the maximum contents of the oil container. Where more than one container is utilised, the secondary containment system should be capable of storing not less than 110% of the largest container's storage capacity or 25% of their aggregate storage capacity, whichever is the greater.
- The base and walls of any bund must be impermeable to liquid and oil (e.g. the bund must be able to contain liquid and oil for 72 hours, by which time the bund must be drained) and must be checked regularly for leaks. In addition, the walls must be sufficiently strong to withstand the hydraulic pressure generated by the collection of rainwater, the contents of the tank, or in an emergency situation, firewater.
- The base and walls must not be penetrated by any valve, pipe or other opening, which is used to drain the system.

- Above ground pipework must be properly supported.
- Below ground pipework must be protected from physical and chemical damage and have adequate leakage protection. If mechanical joints have been used, they should be readily accessible for inspection.
- The oil feed installation from the oil storage tank to the appliance should be fitted with an automatic fuel cut off valve.
- It is important that oil storage tanks are inspected annually by a suitably qualified person.

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