



# Contaminated Fuel: Tank Pump Outs

## Information for Retailers, Transport Companies & Tank Specialty Firms

### BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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Madison, WI 53708  
(608) 224-4942  
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### RESOURCES

Wis. Admin. Code ATCP 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>

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)

Clear & Bright Gas Sample:  
<https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PhaseSeparateGasSampleWithText.pdf>

This fact sheet provides contaminated motor fuel pump out information for retailers, transport companies, and tank specialty firms. This includes tanks with water and/or phase separation, and deliveries into a storage tank of dissimilar fuel, the wrong grade of fuel, or off specification fuel. **If a fuel contamination is suspected, take immediate action.**

### Requirements for All Water Contamination Pump Outs and Fuel Contaminations of an Unknown Source

Shut down the affected dispensers immediately to prevent sale of the contaminated fuel.

Contact DATCP: call (608) 224-4942 and select option 1. Leave a message if you're unable to speak with someone, or email us at [datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov](mailto:datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov) and include your contact information and the location of the contamination.

If water at the bottom of a tank exceeds the requirements of [ATCP 94.320](#), or phase separation has occurred in an ethanol gasoline blend tank, or there is an unknown source of contaminated fuel, a DATCP Weights and Measure official must:

- Directly supervise the pump out
- Sample and test the fuel before fuel sales can resume after a pump out
- Investigate and ensure elimination of the source of water or other contaminant

### Requirements for Pump Outs of Misdemeanors or a Known Source of Off Spec Fuel

Shut down the affected dispensers immediately to prevent sale of the contaminated fuel.

Contact DATCP: call (608) 224-4942 and select option 1. Leave a message if you're unable to speak with someone, or email [datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov](mailto:datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov) and include your contact information and the location of the pump out. You do not need to wait for DATCP to contact you back to begin the pump out. DATCP will send an inspector as soon as possible.

Pump outs must be performed according to the procedures listed below with the oversight of qualified tank specialty firm. A list of certified tank specialty firms is at this link: [website](#).

### Contaminated Fuel Pump Out Procedures

- Drain the piping back to the tank before pumping out to save time and reduce the number of gallons that need to be flushed through the system
- Completely remove all contaminated fuel from the affected tanks and lines and perform a flush so that no contaminated fuel remains in the system
- If possible, remove filters for the affected lines on all dispensers and replace with filter blinds for the system flush in order to reduce the number of gallons that need to be flushed through the system
- Install new filters upon completion of the tank system flush

(over)

### Resuming Fuel Sales after a Contaminated Fuel Pump Out

- Fuel sales after pump outs for water and unknown contaminate sources cannot be resumed without DATCP authorization
- Fuel Sales after pump outs for misdeliveries and known sources of off spec fuel can be resumed if the pump out follows all listed requirements and procedures
- Product that was used to refill the tank is visually inspected at the dispenser and must appear clear, bright and free of sediment. For an example of clear and bright, see our [website](#)
- For misdelliveries and known sources of off spec fuel pump outs *only*, the facility does not have to wait for the fuel to be tested by DATCP to re-open, but is responsible for any off-spec fuel sold

### Blending Contaminated Fuel

- Blending of contaminated fuel can only be performed under the direct supervision of a DATCP weights and measure official
- Ethanol fuel blends with phase separation cannot be blended

### Disposal of Contaminated Fuel

- Fuel that does not meet the minimum required specification in Wis. Admin. Code ATCP 94 cannot be sold to anyone for vehicle use, and must be disposed of in a manner approved by DATCP
- The sale of the fuel as waste or for recycling is acceptable

### Preventing Contaminated Fuel

- Water Contamination Prevention: Station Owners
  - Ensure spill buckets stay clean and dry
  - Monitor ATG for water level and alarms
  - Ensure fill caps, vapor caps, and ATG probe caps are liquid tight
- Misdellivery Prevention
  - Transport Drivers: Check the delivery paperwork and tank fill labels to confirm the correct product is being delivered before the product is unloaded into the tank
  - Station Owners: Tank fills must be clearly labeled per API RP 1637-06 Color-Symbol System so the fuel type in each tank can be easily identified

### Prohibited Practices

- No person other than a refinery or terminal may deliver, unload, direct, or transfer a fuel product into a storage tank system labeled as containing a dissimilar fuel product unless specifically approved in writing by an inspector
- No person other than a refinery or terminal may blend fuel in an underground storage tank
- No person other than a refinery or terminal may transfer a fuel product to any place for retail sale or offer to sell that fuel product if it has been contaminated with a dissimilar product or altered after being tested unless either approved by DATCP or further testing shows the product meets the required specifications
- No person may remove contaminated product from a retail storage tank system without first notifying DATCP

Questions? Please contact us at 608-224-4942, option 4, or [datcpwmcompliance@wi.gov](mailto:datcpwmcompliance@wi.gov)