EPA says most UST owners obeying financial laws

By PETER B LAI S

More than 95 percent of underground storage tank (UST) owners and operators required to be in compliance with federal financial responsibility regulations are in compliance, according to a recent Environmental Protection Agency report.

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 mandated that EPA establish financial responsibility requirements for UST owners to ensure that costs to clean up accidental releases and any third-party liability claims were covered. “In general, golf courses have shown a high degree of compliance,” said Mike Scott, the agency’s public liaison officer for golf course issues.

According to the report, most tank owners are complying by using state assurance funds. Forty-three states have established such funds. State financial assistance programs (e.g., loan guarantees, direct loans, grants) help alleviate some of the economic burden. Programs are available in 17 states.

States are in the best position to establish assistance programs tailored to the specific needs of their communities, the report found. Therefore, EPA should provide the states with assistance when requested, the agency recommended.

Other recommendations included:
- Congress should amend the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to permanently exempt UST contaminated media and debris from its hazardous waste management requirements. The exemption would keep corrective action costs from doubling.
- “We have to face the facts in the real world,” said Scott, when asked about the attitude that if we can’t afford to do the job perfectly, we should do nothing at all. We can’t let that stand in the way of doing something significant.”
- EPA should extend the financial responsibility compliance date for the last category (which includes non-marketers with net worth of less than $20 million) from Oct. 26, 1991, to Dec. 31, 1993. It has done so.
- Why some mom-and-pop operations likely fall below the $20 million ceiling, Scott cautioned that amount is easy to exceed if a course has several partners. If there is any doubt about net worth, check to make certain, Scott advised.
- EPA should clarify the liability of UST lenders, thus removing a current barrier to financing UST facilities and making more capital available to UST owners. A lender is a potentially responsible party if a tank fails, Scott said.

The EPA is seeking something similar to the secured creditor exemption found in the Superfund law that would exempt lenders from most liability problems, Scott said. EPA started this procedure in March.
- EPA should publish a policy directive clarifying the flexibility that exists in the federal corrective action regulations and promotes cost-cutting opportunities.

Kubota has introduced a complete new mowing system, the FZ2100 Front Mower. From “A” — Auto Assist Differential (AAD) to “Z” — Zero Diameter Turning Radius (ZDT), it increases your power and mobility to handle all your mowing needs.

Equipped with 20 horsepower and four-wheel drive, the new FZ2100 Front Mower’s zero diameter turning radius gives you the agility and power to get into the tightest spaces effectively. You can mow around trees, hedges, flower beds and other obstacles much more precisely and in less time. And, with the Auto Assist Differential drive system the machine automatically switches between 2WD and 4WD to match operating conditions and terrain, providing more traction and eliminating slippage. This increased productivity in all mowing conditions, and the FZ2100’s ability to turn completely around in one spot without damage to the turf, cuts down the time spent on labor-intensive hand trimming jobs.

The FZ2100’s front wheels rotate freely through your tightest turns, and Kubota has designed round shoulder tires that virtually eliminate turf damage. And, the FZ2100 offers all the durability and innovation commercial operators have come to expect from Kubota. Like our powerful Kubota liquid-cooled diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission, 55 degree tilt deck for easy access and blade maintenance and optional grass catcher.

Your authorized Kubota dealer can show you the complete commercial mowing system with the power and maneuverability to handle your toughest jobs from A to Z. For more information write to:

Kubota Tractor Corporation
P.O. Box 7020-Z
Compton, CA 90224-7020.

THE COMPLETE COMMERCIAL MOWING SYSTEM FROM “A” TO “Z”

Kubota FZ2100 with Auto Assist Differential and Zero Diameter Turning Radius.