

WAC 374-70-020 Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Abandoned heating oil tank" means a heating oil tank that has been left unused and that is no longer connected to an oil-fired furnace used for space heating of human living or working space on the premises where the tank is located.

(2) "Accidental release" means a sudden or nonsudden release of heating oil from a heating oil tank or its system that results in bodily injury, property damage, or a need for corrective action, neither expected nor intended by the owner or operator.

(3) "Agency" means the Washington state pollution liability insurance agency established pursuant to chapter 70A.325 RCW and is referred to as PLIA throughout this chapter. For purposes of chapter 70A.330 RCW, agency or PLIA shall also mean staff or employees of the pollution liability insurance agency.

(4) "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, sickness, or disease sustained by a person, including death at any time, resulting from the injury, sickness, or disease.

(5) "Claim" means a demand made by a named insured, or the insured's representative, for payment of the benefits provided under the heating oil pollution liability insurance program.

(6)(a) "Corrective action" means those actions reasonably required to be undertaken by the insured to remove, treat, neutralize, contain, or clean up an accidental release in order to comply with a statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, directive, order, or similar legal requirement, in effect at the time of an accidental release, of the United States, the state of Washington, or a political subdivision of the United States or the state of Washington. "Corrective action" includes, where agreed to in writing, in advance by the insurer, action to remove, treat, neutralize, contain, or clean up an accidental release to avert, reduce, or eliminate the liability of the insured for corrective action, bodily injury, or property damage. "Corrective action" also includes actions reasonably necessary to monitor, assess, and evaluate an accidental release.

(b) "Corrective action" does not include:

(i) Removal, replacement or repair of heating oil tanks or other receptacles, except reimbursement of new tank replacement costs in accordance with RCW 70A.330.100;

(ii) Replacement or repair of piping, connections, and valves of tanks or other receptacles; or

(iii) Costs directly associated with tank removal.

(7) "Decommissioned heating oil tank" means a heating oil tank that is no longer connected to an oil-fired furnace used for space heating of human living or working space on the premises where the tank is located and that has been taken out of operation in accordance with the International Fire Code and any pertinent local government requirements.

(8) "Director" means the director of the Washington state pollution liability insurance agency or the director's appointed representative.

(9) "Heating oil" means any petroleum product used for space heating in oil-fired furnaces, heaters, and boilers, including stove oil, diesel fuel, or kerosene. "Heating oil" does not include petroleum products used as fuels in motor vehicles, marine vessels, trains, buses, aircraft, or any off-highway equipment not used for space heat-

ing, or for industrial processing or the generation of electrical energy.

(10) "Heating oil tank" means a tank and its connecting pipes, whether above or below ground, or in a basement, with pipes connected to the tank for space heating of human living or working space on the premises where the tank is located. "Heating oil tank" does not include a decommissioned or abandoned heating oil tank, or a tank used solely for industrial process heating purposes or generation of electrical energy.

(11) "Heating oil tank service provider" is an independent contractor responsible for corrective action including sampling and testing, remedial actions, site restoration, and submittal of required reports to PLIA.

(12) "Insurer" means the commercial insurance company providing pollution liability insurance to owners of heating oil tanks registered under the heating oil pollution liability insurance program. PLIA is the reinsurer of the commercial insurance company and acts as the designated representative of the insurer for the heating oil pollution liability insurance program.

(13) "MTCA" means the Model Toxics Control Act (chapter 70A.305 RCW).

(14) "Named insured" means the owner of the heating oil tank registered for coverage under the heating oil pollution liability insurance program.

(15) "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to conditions, that results in an accidental release from a heating oil tank.

(16) "Online community" means the cloud-based application and data system used by the agency, the agency's customers, and service providers to submit documentation, report, process, and look up project information.

(17) "Owner" means the person, or his or her authorized representative, legally responsible for a heating oil tank, its contents, and the premises upon which the heating oil tank is located.

(18) "Owner or operator" means a person in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of a heating oil tank.

(19) "Per occurrence, per site, per year" means one accidental release per site, per year.

(20) "Pollution liability insurance agency" (PLIA) means the Washington state pollution liability insurance agency established pursuant to chapter 70A.325 RCW. For purposes of chapter 70A.330 RCW, pollution liability insurance agency shall also mean staff or employees of the pollution liability insurance agency.

(21) "Pollution liability insurance agency trust account" means the pollution liability insurance agency trust account established under chapter 70A.325 RCW and established in the custody of the state treasurer. Expenditures from the account are used for the purposes of chapter 70A.325 RCW including the payment of costs of administering the pollution liability insurance program, and payment of reinsurance claims.

(22) "Property damage" means:

(a) Physical injury to, destruction of, or contamination of tangible property, including the loss of use of the property resulting from the injury, destruction, or contamination; or

(b) Loss of use of tangible property that has not been physically injured, destroyed, or contaminated but has been evacuated, withdrawn from use, or rendered inaccessible because of an accidental release.

(23) "Property damage restoration" means the restoration of property to a similar condition to that of the property prior to the accidental release. Restoration includes the replacement of sod, plants or concrete driveway or walkway, or the replacement of flooring in the case of a basement tank.

(24) "Release" means a spill, leak, emission, escape, or leaching into the environment.

(25) "Service provider" means an independent contractor or business who provides corrective action to address heating oil tank releases. A service provider is not a representative, staff, or an employee of the pollution liability insurance agency.

(26) "Third-party claimant" means a person alleged to have suffered property damage requiring corrective action or bodily injury as a direct result of a leak or spill from the heating oil tank of a named insured.

(27) "Third-party liability" means the liability of a heating oil tank owner to another person due to property damage requiring corrective action or bodily injury that results from a leak or spill from a heating oil tank.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70A.330.040. WSR 23-05-006, § 374-70-020, filed 2/2/23, effective 3/5/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 70A.01.010 and 70A.01.020. WSR 22-01-069, § 374-70-020, filed 12/9/21, effective 1/9/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.149.040. WSR 08-20-013, § 374-70-020, filed 9/18/08, effective 1/1/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.149 RCW. WSR 97-06-080, § 374-70-020, filed 3/3/97, effective 4/3/97; WSR 96-01-101, § 374-70-020, filed 12/19/95, effective 1/19/96.]