



Hyde Park[®]

ENVIRONMENTAL

Quick Guide:

***Bunded Storage
Compliance Guidelines - England***

Important Note

This guide provides a high-level overview of secondary containment capacity requirements in England under oil storage legislation. Specific sites may be subject to additional requirements due to:

- Environmental permits
- Planning conditions
- Fire regulations
- Local authority requirements

Businesses should review the relevant legislation or seek professional advice to confirm compliance for their specific circumstances.

What Is Secondary Containment?

Secondary containment (commonly referred to as bunding) is a system designed to contain leaks or spills from primary storage containers, such as:

- Oil tanks
- Drums
- IBCs
- Chemical containers

Its purpose is to prevent pollution of land, groundwater and surface water. In England, bunding requirements are primarily governed by oil storage regulations and environmental protection legislation. If your business stores oil or other potentially polluting liquids, secondary containment is very likely to apply.

The Legal Framework (England)

Bunded oil storage in England is primarily governed by:

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001
- Environmental Permitting Regulations (where applicable)

These regulations apply to most commercial, industrial and institutional premises storing oil.

They are enforced by the Environment Agency. Failure to comply can result in enforcement action, clean-up liability, civil penalties and prosecution.

How Much Must a Bund Hold?

For most oil storage installations in England, the bund must be capable of holding:

At least 110% of the capacity of the largest single container,

OR

25% of the total volume stored, whichever is greater.

Single IBC Storage



Example 1 – Single IBC

Storage: 1 × 1,000 litre IBC

Required bund capacity:
110% of 1,000L = 1,100 litres

The bund must hold a minimum of 1,100 litres

Multiple Barrel Storage



Example 2 – Four 200L Drums

Total stored volume: 800L

25% of total = 200L
Largest drum = 200L
110% of largest drum = 220L

Required capacity = 220 litres
(110% of largest container is greater than 25% of total)

When Is Bunding Required?

Under the Oil Storage Regulations (England), bunding is generally required where:

- Oil is stored in containers of more than 200 litres at commercial, industrial or institutional premises.
- Oil is stored outdoors in tanks, drums or IBCs.
- There is a risk of oil escaping and causing environmental pollution.

“Oils” include:

- Diesel
- Petrol
- Heating oil
- Lubricating oils
- Hydraulic oils
- Waste oil

In practice, bunding may also be required for other potentially polluting liquids under environmental protection legislation or permit conditions.

Design & Construction Expectations

Capacity alone does not make a bund compliant.

In England, a compliant bund should:

- Be impermeable to the oil stored
- Be resistant to attack by the stored liquid
- Have no drainage outlet (unless compliant and controlled)
- Be structurally sound and free from cracks
- Prevent escape to drains, watercourses or groundwater

For outdoor installations, rainfall must be considered. Rainwater reduces available containment capacity and must be managed appropriately.

Inspection & Maintenance

Businesses have an ongoing duty to ensure secondary containment remains effective.

Good practice includes:

- Routine visual inspections
- Removing accumulated rainwater safely
- Checking for cracks, corrosion or degradation
- Ensuring stored containers remain fully within the bund footprint

A bund that technically meets the 110% rule but is cracked, full of rainwater or damaged may not be compliant.

CHECKLIST

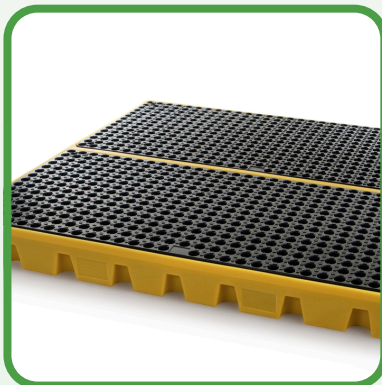
- ☐ Does the bund meet the 110% / 25% rule?
- ☐ Is the full storage footprint inside the bund?
- ☐ Is the structure impermeable and undamaged?
- ☐ Is rainwater reducing available capacity?
- ☐ Is the bund suitable for the liquid being stored?
- ☐ Are inspections documented?

Why Choose Hyde Park Environmental?

Understanding bund capacity requirements is one thing; ensuring your storage is genuinely compliant is another. Hyde Park Environmental works with facilities, operations and EHS teams to translate legislation into practical, site-ready solutions that reduce environmental risk and protect business reputation. We don't just supply banded pallets; we provide compliance-led guidance backed by real-world experience.

- Correctly Sized, Fully Compliant Solutions – Bunded storage designed to meet the 110% / 25% capacity rule, suitable for drums, IBCs and tanks.
- Technical Specification Support – Clear advice on volume calculations, material compatibility and site layout considerations.
- Inspection & Permit Readiness – Helping ensure your containment stands up to regulatory scrutiny.
- Integrated Spill Control Expertise – Aligning secondary containment with wider spill response and pollution prevention measures.

Straightforward expertise. Protecting your reputation.



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