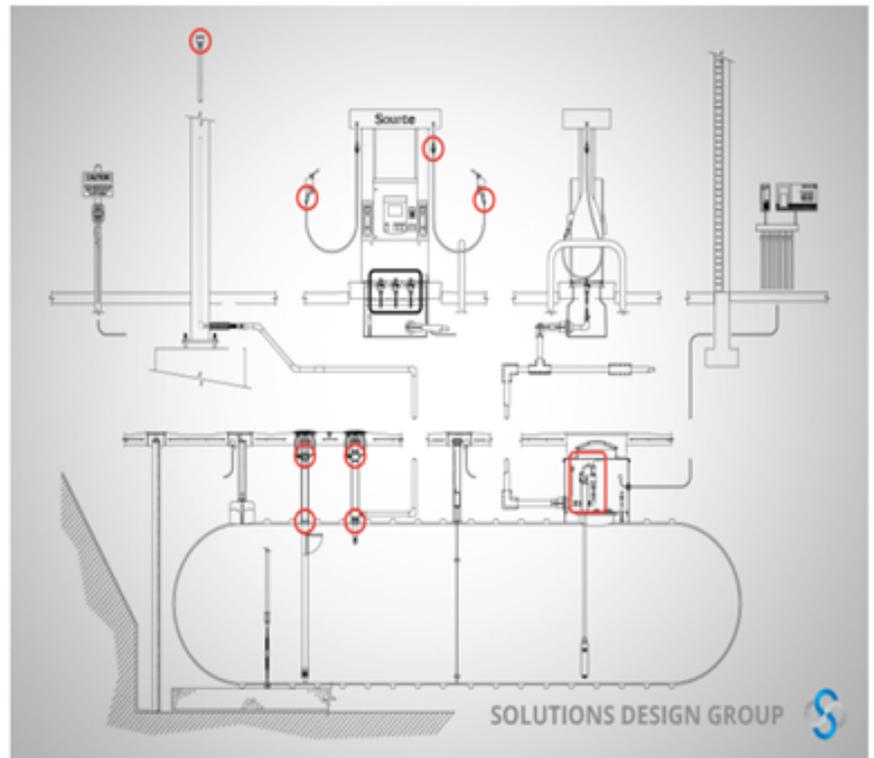


## E15 AND PIPE DOPE

According to guidance issued by the U.S. EPA, no affirmative compatibility determination is required for pipe dope. However, the original 1988 UST regulations require all UST system components to be compatible with the product stored, including pipe dope. As a result, according to EPA regulations, a tank owner is not required to affirmatively demonstrate pipe dope compatibility. However, once a higher blend ethanol and gasoline product like E15 is entered into the system, the pipe dope must nevertheless be compatible with the product stored. (1)

From a technical aspect, accessing the areas where pipe dope is located is relatively simple. As demonstrated in this illustration, most locations are either visible or easy to access via a manway or minor cut in concrete. The areas in red are typical areas where pipe dope would be found in a typical fuel system. (3)

Ethanol opponents say higher-ethanol-compatible pipe dope was only available beginning around 2007, when in fact the leading manufacturer, Gasoila, states that their blue paste has been compatible for up to 20% ethanol for decades. (2) While operators must prove compatibility in their underground storage tank systems for whatever substance they store, thanks to the Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI), finding data for proof of compatibility has become much simpler.



At the PEI website, [www.pei.org](http://www.pei.org), retailers can find published manufacturer statements that give technical guidance on when their equipment was UL certified. This information also includes what specific products and blends are covered under the listed certification.

Additionally, UL has developed a user-friendly compatibility tool to assist manufacturers and fueling stations to meet EPA, state and other code fuel compatibility requirements. This can be accessed via the UL Product iQ Database at [www.ocd.ulprospector.com](http://www.ocd.ulprospector.com) compatible for 15 percent ethanol.

### Sources:

- 1.Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/ust/emerging-fuels-and-underground-storage-tanks-usts>
2. FedPro – A division of Federal Process Corporation <https://www.fedprobrands.com/products/pipe-thread-sealants/gasoila-soft-set-thread-sealant-with-ptfe.html>