

### Diesel Leak from Portable Toilet

A defective fuel pipe located at the rear of a Garic portable toilet – the **Garic 855 Solar Loo** – enabled approximately 1 litre of diesel to escape to ground due to inadequate containment within the Garic unit. These units are not compliant with The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### Cause

Site personnel thought the Garic unit was solar powered and were unaware that the unit had a 205 Litre diesel tank contained in the rear.

A strong smell of fuel was evident during an early morning inspection and it became apparent that the source was an isolated leak within the rear of the portable toilet block.

A fuel bund, which was full of diesel when discovered, was of insufficient capacity to retain the contents of the tank which had leaked due to a defective elbow fitting from the fuel line (see Photo). The fuel leak was exaggerated due to the unit not being placed on level ground. This also enabled the excess fuel within the bund to overspill on to the tarmac area of the compound.



#### Actions

- The diesel spill was contained locally and cleaned up with absorbent mats and booms. A bio-degradable oil digester was used to remove residual hydrocarbon from the tarmac.
- Inspection of all similar units confirmed that each was non-compliant with the oil storage regulations due to inadequate bunding. It was also noted that each pipe assembly was of poor construction.
- All the units were drained of diesel and withdrawn from service.

#### Learning Points

- Check your welfare units, even solar powered units, to ensure compliance with relevant Oil Storage Regulations (i.e. bunded to a capacity capable of retaining at least 110% of the fuel tank capacity).
- Ensure the units are located on flat level ground and away from drainage gullies and / or watercourses.
- Include the pipe work and associated components in daily inspections and maintain frequently.
- Consider placing the unit on an oversized plant nappy.
- Ensure emergency spill response exercises are regularly practiced with appropriate personnel.

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