

Used Oil Generators

Background

Used oil is produced in many service and industrial activities such as auto repair, metal working, machine lubrication, refrigeration, and hydraulic equipment repair. Used oil can be recycled to make new lubricants or used as an industrial fuel when properly managed. When properly recycled, used oil is excluded from regulation as a hazardous waste.

It is important that used oil be properly recycled to prevent potential pollution of the air, land, surface water, and groundwater. Used oil can contain cancer-causing agents, metal contaminants, and organic compounds that filter into the groundwater supply when the used oil is dumped or sprayed as a dust suppressant. Such contamination can result in serious hazards to human health. This factsheet describes state and federal used oil generator requirements.

References for specific rule sections, are included in each subject heading. Federal used oil regulations are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 40, Part 279. State used oil regulations are found in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), Division 111. Refer to specific rule for additional information.

What is used oil? [OAR 340-111-020]

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) defines used oil as any oil that has been refined from crude or synthetic oil and used as a:

- Lubricant
- Electrical Insulation Oil
- Hydraulic Fluid
- Heat Transfer Oil
- Brake Fluid
- Refrigeration Oil
- Grease
- Machine Cutting Oil

Used oil does not include:

- Used oil mixed with hazardous waste except for specific instances.
- Petroleum and synthetic based products used as solvent.
- Antifreeze
- Wastewaters from which the oil has been removed.
- Oil contaminated media or debris.

What is a used oil generator? [40 CFR 279.1 and 40 CFR 279.20]

A used oil generator is any person, by site, whose act or process produces used oil or whose act first causes the used oil to be regulated. Generators subject to the used oil regulations include, but are not limited to, businesses, governments, schools, and equipment maintenance facilities. Used oil regulations discussed in this factsheet do not apply to:

- Persons generating used oil through the maintenance of their own personal vehicles;
- Farmers generating an average of 25 gallons per month or less of used oil from vehicles or machinery used on the farm during a calendar year.

Used oil storage. [OAR 340-111-032, 40 CFR 279.22 and 40 CFR, Part 112]

Storage units: Used oil must be stored in tanks or containers in good condition (no severe rusting, apparent structural defects or deterioration) with no leaking. The containers or tanks must also be covered or closed to prevent rainwater from entering.

Labeling

Containers and above-ground tanks must be clearly labeled or marked with the words "used oil". Fill pipes used to transfer used oil to underground tanks shall be clearly marked with the words "used oil".

Response to releases

Upon detection of a release of used oil to the environment, the generator of the used oil must stop the release and comply with the provisions found in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 340, Division 108.

Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC)

Used oil generators may be subject to SPCC plan requirements in 40 CFR, Part 112 if they have storage capacity in excess of the following:

- Above ground storage tanks 660 gallons in a single tank or 1,320 gallons total in more than one tank or container.
- Underground storage tanks 42,000 gallons total capacity.



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