

Complying with the new used oil regulations

In the spring of 1999, new federal regulations took effect in Kansas which cover the generation, transportation, storage, disposal and recycling of used oil. If you are one of the many businesses that use an oil-fired space heater, these new regulations may affect you. We will look at the new requirements for the used-oil generator as well as the owner of the space heater.

What must used oil generators do?

Generators of used oil, with the exception of “do-it-yourselfers” and farmers who generate an average of 25 gallons or less of used oil per month, must meet the following requirements. The used oil must:

- Be stored in containers or aboveground storage tanks (AST) in good condition;
- Have a label stating “used oil”; and
- In the event of a spill, be stopped, contained and cleaned up, and then steps should be taken to ensure it will not occur again.

If you store used oil in an underground storage tank (UST), you must label the fill pipe with the words “used oil” and you may be subject to Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements if your UST capacity is greater than 42,000 gallons, or your AST is more than 660 gallons or total AST volume is more than 1,320 gallons.

So once I generate used oil, what can I do with it?

As a generator of used-oil, you have several options in regards to disposal. One of the easiest and most economical options is to burn the used oil in your own used oil space heater. You can also haul it to a registered used oil collection, as long as it is in quantities of 55 gallons or less, or contract with a used oil transporter to move the used oil off-site for proper disposal.

You may also transport the oil yourself, without the 55-gallon limit, under a contractual agreement with a used-oil processor. The reclaimed oil is then returned to the generator for used as a coolant, cutting oil or lubricant.

For the “do-it-yourselfer,” some counties have established collection programs to take used oil from the general public. Many are part of household hazardous waste collection programs. You may also want to check with your local service station or automotive maintenance facility. Containers specifically designed for carrying used motor oil may be purchased at automotive supply stores.

So what if you’re a business, and you don’t want to send your oil to a collector and pay disposal costs, what else can you do? Another business can burn your used oil, but the oil has to be determined to be “on spec.” Used oil is considered “on spec” if it has a minimum flash point of 100 degree Fahrenheit and it meets the following concentration levels for total halogens and four heavy metals:

<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Limit</u>
■ Cadmium	maximum of 2 PPM
■ Arsenic	maximum of 5 PPM
■ Chromium	maximum of 10 PPM
■ Lead	maximum of 100 PPM
■ Total halogens	maximum of 1000 PPM

To ease the regulatory burden, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recommends testing be done, at least annually, by the used oil generator, with copies of the results being kept by both the used oil generator and owner of the space heater burning the oil. The generator is also responsible for keeping records of all “on spec” oil shipped off site, to whom it was sent, the quantity sent, the date sent and a cross-reference to the laboratory analysis done. Although not required, KDHE also recommends that used oil generators have written procedures for proper collection of used oil and docu-



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ment when employees have been trained on the proper collection methods.

New space heater requirements

If you are the owner of a used oil space heater, there are some new requirements you should know about. Your oil-fired space heaters should have a maximum capacity of not more than 0.5 million Btu per hour, and all exhausted combustion gases must be vented to the outside of the building. Most commercially sold units meet these requirements; however, it does not hurt to be certain these standards are being met.

If you are accepting used oil to be burned in your space heater, make sure to keep copies of the laboratory analyses run on the oil, as well as any records relating to the shipments. Remember, the owner of an oil-fired space heater can accept only untested oil generated off site from do-it-yourselfers or farmers generating an average of 25 gallons per month or less. Space heaters are designed to burn used oil, not solvents, antifreeze, gasoline or other materials that may be mixed in with the oil given to you from a larger business. For all other cases, be sure the oil is determined to be "on spec."

Why mixing is not such a hot idea

As stated by KDHE, "Under the used oil regulations, the only mixtures that can be regulated as used oil are those where the waste solvent is not a listed solvent or does not have any hazardous waste characteristics." For Kansas or EPA generators, by adding a hazardous waste solvent to your used oil, the entire mixture becomes hazardous and you have just increased the quantity of hazardous waste you must now dispose of properly, as well as all the headaches associated with cradle-to-grave hazardous waste liabilities.

Finally ...

Remember, these new "used oil" regulations place restrictions on both using the used oil as a fuel source and the oil-fired space heaters they can be used in. They are in place to protect the owners of space heaters to insure that the used oil being burned is appropriate for the design of the heater.

If you would like further information on the new requirements, you can contact KDHE at 785-296-1591 or Kansas State University at 800-578-8898.



The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's (SBEAP) mission is to help Kansas small businesses comply with environmental regulations. SBEAP operates through a consortium of the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University. SBEAP is funded through a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. SBEAP services are free and confidential. This fact sheet was published by Kansas State University's Pollution Prevention Institute. For more information, call 800-578-8898 or send e-mail to SBEAP@ksu.edu. Our Web address is <http://sbeap.niar.twsu.edu>. The University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University are EEO/AA providers.