



Complying with Kansas used-oil regulations

Introduction

In 1999, federal regulations took effect in Kansas which cover 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 regulations may affect you.

What must used-oil generators do?

For 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, the following requirements must be met:

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

You may be subject to spill prevention control and countermeasure (SPCC) requirements if your total aboveground storage capacity exceeds 1,320 gallons, including containers of 55 gallons or greater. If you store used oil in an underground storage tank (UST), you must label the fill pipe with the words “used oil.” You may be subject to SPCC requirements if your total UST capacity exceeds 42,000 gallons and

your USTs are not regulated by the Kansas UST program. For more information, check the Environmental Protection Agency Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc.htm>.

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

As a generator of used oil, you have several options in regard to disposal. One of the easiest and most economical options is to burn your own used oil in your own used-oil space heater. You may also receive and burn used oil from do-it-yourselfers or farmers generating an average of 25 gallons per month or less. Under the regulations, you may not receive and burn used oil from any other sources.

You can also haul your used oil to a registered used-oil collection site, as long as it is in quantities of 55 gallons or less, or contract with a used-oil transporter to transport it 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 use 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 auto-

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motive 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° F and meets the following concentration levels for total halogens and four heavy metals:

- cadmium—a maximum of 2 PPM
- arsenic—a maximum of 5 PPM
- chromium—a maximum of 10 PPM
- lead—a maximum of 100 PPM
- total halogens—a maximum of 1000 PPM

To ease 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, quantity sent, 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 document when employees have been trained on proper collection methods.

Why mixing is not a good 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.

Space heater requirements

If you are the owner of a used-oil space heater, there are some 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 doesn't 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 shipments. Remember, the owner of an oil-fired space heater can only accept 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."

For further information

Remember, these used-oil regulations place restrictions on both using the used oil as a fuel source and in oil-fired space heaters. They are in place to protect owners of space heaters and to insure that the used oil being burned is what the heater was designed for.

If you would like further information on these requirements, contact Roger Carman, KDHE, at 785-291-3746 or Kansas State University at 800-578-8898.



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