



Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management

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Used Oil Management

Used oil management standards are found at 40 CFR Part 279. Used oil means any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil, that has been used and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities.

Used oils must be:

- Collected in clean containers in good condition (no severe rusting, apparent structural defects or deterioration) that are intact and do not leak.
- All containers of used oil, including collection and transfer containers must be marked with the words "Used Oil". Adhesive "Used Oil" labels are available from EHSRM.
- Used oil containers should remain closed at all times other than when adding or removing used oil.
- Solvents, parts washer fluids, carburetor cleaners or glycols must never be added to the used oil container.

Used Oil Spills – Releases: Notify EHSRM (40 CFR 279.22 (d) identifies the following cleanup steps in the event of a release of used oil: a) stop the release, b) contain the released used oil, c) clean up and manage properly the used oil and other materials and d) if necessary, repair or replace any leaking used oil storage containers or tanks prior to returning them to service).

To determine if used oils are on-specification, off-specification or regulated as a hazardous waste, EHSRM submits samples of used oils for energy recovery parameter analyses which includes:

- EPA 6010: arsenic, cadmium, chromium and lead content
- EPA 1010: flashpoint
- ASTM D808: total halogens
- EPA 8080: polychlorinated biphenyls

Used Oil Specifications:

- Arsenic 5 ppm maximum
- Cadmium 2 ppm maximum
- Chromium 10 ppm maximum
- Lead 100 ppm maximum
- Flash point 100 °F minimum
- Total Halogens 4,000 ppm maximum*

*Used oil containing more than 1,000 ppm total halogens is presumed to be a hazardous waste under the rebuttable presumption provided under 279.10 (b)(ii). Such used oil is subject to subpart H of part 266 of the Code of Federal Regulations rather than this part when burned for energy recovery unless the presumption of mixing can be successfully rebutted. Call EHSRM for more information.