



## What's in the code of practice for used oil



The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has developed a code of practice for managing used oil. *Management and Handling of Used Oil: HSNO COP 63* (the code) is a practical guide for oil users to safely manage their used oil and comply with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO). The code is available on the EPA website - [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz) - search for *used oil code*.



### What the code does

Codes of practice tell you how to comply with HSNO in a way that is legally defensible.

The code provides guidance on how to comply with the HSNO controls for used oil. It lists the HSNO rules it covers in section 1.3 and appendix 1.

If used oil is not stored, used or disposed of properly it can harm people and the environment. For example, it can contaminate ground and surface water, which can damage drinking water and aquatic life.

If you follow the code you will minimise the impact of used oil on people and the environment and comply with HSNO.

## What is used oil?

Oil can become contaminated with toxic chemicals, carcinogenic substances, volatile hydrocarbons and heavy metals during use, changing its properties. Used oil is oil that has been contaminated through use and so can't be used for its original purpose. It is sometimes called waste oil and is defined in the code as:

*any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic hydrocarbon oil, that has been used, and as a result of such use, has become unsuitable for its original purpose due to the presence of impurities or contaminants or the loss of original properties.*

There are many types of used oil. They can come from a number of sources and are listed, as List A, in the code. They include:

- engine oils
- lubricating oils
- hydraulic fluid
- insulating oils
- industrial process oils.

Used oil must not be mixed with substances such as:

- antifreeze
- paint
- solvents
- chlorinated oils
- animal or vegetable oils
- petrol or diesel.

These are listed, as List B, in the code. If used oil is contaminated with List B substances it will need to be treated as hazardous waste. To avoid this, you should store used oil away from all solvents and chemicals.

## Who should use the code?

The code is for any individual, business or regulatory authority involved with used oil. This ranges from people who change the oil in their own car to large industries that use used oil as a fuel, such as cement kiln operators. It covers the whole life cycle of used oil:

- generation
- collection
- transport
- storage
- processing
- end use
- disposal.

## Small volume used oil generators

Small volume generators are people who only generate small amounts of used oil and don't have on-site storage facilities. For example, people who repair and drain oil from their own vehicles. The code gives guidance on how to handle and dispose of used oil.

When draining oil from vehicles you should collect it in a container that can be sealed, for example the plastic container the original oil came in. You should dispose of used oil at public collection sites. You will find public collection sites at:

- oil retailers
- DIY stores
- refuse transfer stations
- landfills.

Used oil must not be disposed of into drains, general waste collection, by burning or onto land. Contact your local and regional councils for more information on where used oil can be disposed of and what rules apply.

## Businesses involved with used oil

If the day-to-day activities of your business include generation, collection, transfer, storage, use or disposal of used oil, you should follow the code. Businesses involved with used oil include:

- vehicle repair shops
- industrial manufacturers
- oil transporters and processors
- industry using used oil as a fuel, such as cement kilns.

It is likely that your business will be involved with more than one stage of the used oil life cycle. For example, you may store and transport used oil. You must ensure that you comply with all the rules for each stage of the life cycle.



## What the code covers

The code covers the whole life cycle of used oil and includes the HSNO rules for all individuals and businesses involved with used oil. It gives guidance on:

- location, design, layout and construction of used oil facilities
- design and construction of tanks
- design, construction and operation of tank wagons
- management and operation of used oil facilities including:
  - » security
  - » monitoring and record keeping
  - » maintenance
- safety gear/PPE
- staff training and licensing
- warning signs
- fire prevention and control
- spill prevention and control including:
  - » secondary containment
  - » spill kits
- emergency response planning
- disposal of used oil
- test certification of oil storage and transport equipment.

## Test certification

Test certificates show that users of hazardous substances meet their legal requirements under HSNO. They are issued by test certifiers. A test certifier is an independent service provider, recognised as an industry expert and approved by the EPA. Depending on the amount of used oil you store or transport you may need a test certificate.

Stationary container system test certificates are needed for:

- below ground tanks with a capacity 250 litres or greater
- above ground tanks with a capacity greater than 5,000 litres
- tanks with a capacity greater than 60 litres, when attached to a burner.

All tanks larger than 250 litres must be designed, constructed and installed according to the HSNO rules whether they need a test certificate or not.

Tank wagons need test certification for:

- design
- pre-commissioning
- in-service testing, every two years.

## Are used oil filters and oily rags included in the code?

Solid waste contaminated with used oil, such as oily rags and oil filters, are not covered by the code. You should contact your local council to find out how to dispose of this waste.

## Other legislation

Used oil bulk storage, processing, refining and burning as a fuel may require consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). When burning used oil you must comply with the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality. You should contact your regional council to discuss RMA requirements.

Burning used oil releases greenhouse gases into the air. If you burn used oil you must follow the requirements of the Emissions Trading Scheme. You can get more information on this from the EPA website - [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz) - click on Emissions Trading in the menu bar.

## More information

You can find the code on the EPA website – search for *used oil code*. If you have questions, please call our Help Line 0800 376 234 or email [hsinfo@epa.govt.nz](mailto:hsinfo@epa.govt.nz). You can also contact your local oil suppliers, the Motor Trade Association (MTA) - [www.mta.org.nz](http://www.mta.org.nz) - or your test certifier for further information.

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