

MANAGEMENT OF USED CAR LUBE OILS, FILTERS AND EMPTY CONTAINERS

This information sheet describes Alberta Environment's legal framework and recommended practices regarding the management as wastes or recyclables of used crankcase oils, spent lube oil filters, and empty lube containers.

Legal Framework

AENV regulates spent lubricating oils and undrained lube oil filters removed from internal combustion engines as hazardous materials (Waste Type 201). Empty lube oil containers are not considered hazardous. A review of Alberta's related legislation, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)*, the *Activities Designation Regulation* and the *Waste Control Regulation*, is available at: environment.gov.ab.ca.

Storage requirements are summarized in the publication "*Waste Management Information for Businesses that Store Hazardous Wastes and Hazardous Recyclables*". This guide document is also available at web site mentioned above.

In addition to waste legislation affecting the management of these materials, the Alberta Government enacted in 1997 the *Lubricating Oil Materials Recycling and Management Regulation* that established the basis for the Alberta Used Oil Recycling Program. Contacts and details on economic incentives associated with this stewardship program are available at www.usedoilrecycling.com/accueil/default.aspx.

Used Lubricating Oil

Used lube oil is considered a hazardous waste (Waste Type 201, Class 9.3) or a hazardous recyclable, depending on its intended management, as it generally shows in its composition certain heavy metals that produce toxic leachates. Consequently, used lube oil should be managed as hazardous recyclable and processed only at authorized facilities as required by legislation.

Used Lube Oil Filters

In Alberta, undrained used lube oil filters are also considered hazardous waste. These materials receive the same label as used oils: Waste Type 201, Class 9 and should be directed to approved facilities. Drained oil filters for which the draining efficiency is greater than 0.5 are not considered hazardous. The draining efficiency is defined in Part 1A, page 8 of the *Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers* available at AENV web site. Generally, filters that have been drained on a rack for 12 hours or longer are considered non hazardous. Regardless of the degree of liquid removal by gravity settling, Alberta Environment encourages volume reduction by mechanical compaction prior to recycling or disposal, when no recycling is reasonably available. To encourage recycling, activities involved in volume reduction of process filters and liquid removal from used filters are exempted from environmental authorizations under *EPEA* [check Division 1, section (h) of the *Activities Designation Regulation*].

Recycling opportunities are readily available at reasonable cost for larger generators due to the value of the residual oil and scrap metal. That metal counts for about 80% by weight of the oil filter. Information on companies that manage these materials is available from the Environmental Services Association of Alberta at www.esaa.org.

Empty Lube Oil Containers

Empty containers from used or virgin lube oils are not considered hazardous and their processing as recyclables does not require authorizations from AENV. Again, when disposal is the only option volume reduction of the empty containers is advisable. Local government by-laws or other requirements for siting and operate related recycling facilities apply.

Transportation Requirements

When offered for transport on Alberta roads these used oil and undrained spent filters have to be accompanied by either a manifest or a recycle docket, if handled as a waste or a recyclable, respectively. The shipment of recyclables in quantities below 205 kg or 205 litres does not require a recycle docket. Information on manifest and recycle docket forms, guidelines and contacts is available on-line at www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/rr/index.html.

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