

Fact Sheet

Draft General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewater Associated with Food Preparation Establishments (Renewal)

Why Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG)?

Grease from restaurants, homes, and industrial sources is the most common cause (47%) of reported blockages and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). Grease is problematic because it solidifies and cause blockages in the sewer collection system. Raw sewage overflows result in public health risks and negative impacts to waterways.

What is the “General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewater Associated with Food Preparation Establishment” (also referred to as the FOG General Permit)?

This General Permit, issued in September 2005, requires certain dischargers to municipal sewer systems to limit the amount of FOG that they discharge by installing either passive or active FOG treatment systems. The current FOG general permit can be found online at

www.ct.gov/deep/municipalwastewater

The general permit will expire in September 2015. The most recent revision of the draft of the proposed general permit renewal is online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/water/municipal_wastewater/draft_gp_discharge_wastewater_food.pdf

Renewal of the General Permit

- The changes in the draft general permit don't expand the coverage of the permit.
- The changes provide increased clarity in the permit.
- The changes in the permit provide flexibility on equipment requirements.

New and Revised Definitions:

- Some definitions have been modified, and some new terms added, to provide enhanced clarity in regards to responsibilities of the municipalities and Food Preparation Establishments (FPE).

“**Authorized Agent**” means a representative of the water pollution control authority or the authorized representative of the municipality.

“**Food Preparation Establishment**” means a Class III and IV FPE as defined by the Public Health Code or any other facility discharging FOG above the effluent limits of this general permit such, as, but not limited, to, restaurants, school kitchens, bars, factory cafeterias.

“~~Automatic~~ **Grease recovery unit**” means indoor units, automatic or manual, designed to separate fats, oils and grease from flowing wastewater. The unit must be designed to meet the effluent limits requirements defined in Section (c)(1) and (2) of this general permit. The definition has been modified to expand the use of other equipment other than the skimming device. However, the equipment has meet the effluent limits of the permit.

“**Grease trap/FOG interceptor**” means a passive tank installed outside a building and designed to remove FOG from flowing wastewater while allowing wastewater to flow

through it. The word FOG was included to clarify that the interceptor relates to FOG and not to a septic system.

“FOG Management equipment” The permittee must demonstrate that the proposed FOG management equipment will not discharge FOG concentrations that exceed the discharge general permit limit. Only after receiving written approval by the authorized agent will the permittee be authorized to install the unit.

If you have any comments or questions, please call:

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Clarifications and Enhancements:

- The proposed modifications to the general permit provide clarification related to FOG management equipment maintenance, storage of FOG and hauling requirements.
 - The **authorized agent** has the authority to require increased maintenance and cleaning if the facility is within an area where FOG has been a recurring problem in the sewerage system.
 - The permittee is responsible for properly handling the storage of FOG, and is responsible for hiring a FOG cleaner and hauler that will comply with the handling and disposal requirements of the permit.
 - All FOG containers shall be clearly labelled.
 - The contents of all grease trap/FOG interceptors, Grease Recovery Units and other FOG management equipment shall be properly recycled or disposed. A range of options for proper recycling or disposal, both within and outside Connecticut, are identified.

Updated information regarding the general permit renewal process will be posted at:

www.ct.gov/deep/municipalwastewater