



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE
WATER PERMITTING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
(860) 424-3018**

Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet

**Reissuance with Modifications of the General Permit for the
Discharge of Food Processing Wastewater**

This general permit authorizes the discharge to sanitary sewer of “food processing wastewater” which is wastewater generated by the manufacture and storage of food and beverages for human or animal consumption as described in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) group numbers 201 through 209, inclusive. These wastewaters include, but are not limited to, wastewater generated by cleaning and maintenance of areas associated with storage, processing, packaging and disposal of raw materials, products and by-products, laboratory research, and composting operations. Discharges under this general permit are only allowed to sanitary sewer and not to surface water or ground water. As with other general permits, it provides an alternative to an individual wastewater discharge permit for a common industrial discharge. The *General Permit for the Discharge of Food Processing Wastewater* was first issued August 30, 1996. Currently 41 facilities have registered to discharge to the sanitary sewer system under this permit.

Reissuance of this general permit is necessary because the current general permit expired August 30, 2006. Minor modifications to the requirements of the general permit have been made to improve maintenance requirements of one of the treatment options and to bring the structure of the general permit up to current standards.

Proposed modifications—Proposed modifications to the permit are explained below.

- Definitions for “Commissioner”, “Grease trap/interceptor”, “Grease trap/interceptor cleaner”, “Individual permit”, “Person”, “POTW”, “POTW authority”, and “Regional collection/transfer/disposal site” have been added to update the general permit to current standards. Also, the addition of North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) numbers augments the “Food Processing Wastewater” definition which already includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) numbers for the food processing industry.
- A previous reference to an oil/water separator has been modified to use the term “grease trap/interceptor”. Additionally, maintenance requirements for the grease trap/interceptor were added to align this permit with requirements of the recently issued *General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewater Associated With Food Preparation Establishments*.

- The high limit for pH of the discharge has been changed from 10 to 11 to make this permit consistent with the *General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible Wastewater* and other general permits.
- The previous effluent limitation of “Oil and Grease—Hydrocarbon Fraction” has been changed to “Total Oil and Grease”. The limit remains at 100 mg/l.
- Section 5(d) Collection and Transport of Food Processing Wastewater has been modified to eliminate the requirement that an underground holding tank meet the underground storage tank regulations of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 22a-449(d)—1(e) because these tanks would not contain “oil or petroleum liquids”. New language requires the tank to be constructed of cathodically protected steel, fiberglass, or concrete with additional specifications.
- Appendix B of the general permit is a list of toxic and hazardous pollutants. If the food processing discharge contains substances above the maximum concentrations listed, the registration under the general permit must be approved by the commissioner. The PCB section of Appendix B has been removed, as PCBs are not expected to be found in food products.

Registration—As in the current general permit, registration is required for all facilities with discharges of food processing wastewater greater than 1000 gallons per day. Registration renewal materials will be sent to all previous registrants and will be due 60 days following the date of reissuance. This general permit will expire ten years from the date of reissuance.

Effluent Limitations and Best Management Practices—The general permit contains effluent limitations for temperature, pH, and Total Oil and Grease as well as best management practices that reduce the impact the wastewater will have on the receiving publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and subsequently prevent the discharge of pollution to the waters of the state.

Monitoring— Discharges with maximum daily flows below 25,000 gallons per day (gpd) must sample for BOD₅, pH, total oil and grease, and total suspended solids by May 11, 2008. Annual sampling of BOD₅, pH, total oil and grease, and total suspended solids will be required for facilities with maximum daily flows greater than 25,000 gallons per day.

Interested persons may download the permit, registration forms, and this fact sheet on the DEP website at www.ct.gov/dep/permits&licenses. One can also obtain a paper copy of the permit, registration forms or fact sheet by calling (860) 424-3018 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, by emailing kevin.sowa@po.state.ct.us or by writing to Mr. Kevin Sowa, Water Permitting and Enforcement Division, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT, 06106-5127 and requesting a copy of the general permit.