

Frequently Asked Questions by Businesses That Generate or Accept Used Oil

What Must I Do to Be Certified (and Receive the \$0.16 Per Gallon Recycling Incentive Fee)?

To be eligible for certification by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, your center must accept used lubricating oil from the public at no charge during the hours that the center is open and offer the recycling incentive fee of \$0.16 per gallon to them.

A certified center must also provide notice to the public, through on-site signs and periodic advertising in local media, of the center's acceptance of used lubricating oil.

A certification application form is available on the Board website at www.ciwmb.ca.gov. On the "Programs" selection list, select "Used Oil Recycling," and then go to "Collection Center Operators" and look for the link to the "Certification Application." The application form is titled "Used Oil Collection Center Certification Application" (CIWMB 29).

What Type of Paperwork Will I Be Required to Submit to Receive the Recycling Incentive?

To be eligible to receive a recycling incentive payment, you must first apply to become a certified collection center. Once the application has been accepted, you will receive an information packet that includes a copy of the recycling incentive reimbursement claim. The information packet will provide you with the information necessary to follow the program and receive your recycling incentive reimbursement.

How Long Must I Wait to Receive My Incentive Payment?

Expect to receive your incentive payment within 6–8 weeks of receipt of the claim at the Board's accounting office. Claims with discrepancies will take longer. Call (916) 341-6176 for claims questions.

What Are Some of My Responsibilities as an Operator of a Certified Used Oil Collection Center?

You and your employees must offer \$0.16/gallon (\$0.04/quart) to people who bring their used lubricating (motor) oil to your certified used oil collection center.

You must post a Board-approved certified used oil collection center sign in a location easily visible from a public street.

You can accept no more than 55 gallons per person per day in containers no greater than 55 gallons. You may establish a lower maximum limit, not to be less than 5 gallons per person per day.

My Hauler Won't Pick Up My Used Oil Without an EPA ID Number—How do I Get an EPA ID Number?

An EPA ID number is required for your business before your used oil can be legally picked up and transported. Only the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) can issue an EPA ID number for businesses in California. EPA ID numbers must be obtained by completing DTSC Form 1358, available at www.dtsc.ca.gov. Follow links to Publications and Forms/Publications Index/EPA ID fact sheet, and follow the directions.

For additional information, call DTSC Generator Services at 1-800-618-6942.

Once My Program Is Certified or Registered, Can I Claim the Recycling Incentive on Oil Recycled Retroactively to the Start of the Program?

No. You can only claim the incentive beginning with oil generated or collected in the calendar quarter you first became certified or registered.

If I Currently Accept Used Oil from the Public, Am I Required to Become a Certified Collection Center?

A business that currently accepts used oil from the public is not required to become certified. However, certified centers are eligible to claim the recycling incentive on all used oil generated by the center. For example, if a service station is also a certified center, it may claim the \$0.16 per gallon for used oil recycled from the customers' cars serviced at the station, and they do not have to reimburse their customers for that oil. In addition, nothing prevents a person who brings in their oil for recycling from donating the recycling incentive to the center.

My Business is Not Open to the General Public—Can I Apply to the Recycling Program and Be Eligible for the Recycling Incentive Fee?

Yes, if you qualify as an Industrial Generator (of used lubricating oil), you can still apply to the oil recycling program and be eligible to receive the used oil recycling incentive fee (see below).

What Is an Industrial Generator?

An industrial generator of used oil is defined as an entity that buys and uses lubricating oil only for equipment owned or used by the entity (Public Resources Code Section 48614). You may be an industrial generator if, as a part of your day-to-day business operations you meet the three following requirements:

- 1) You use automobiles, buses, trucks, planes, trains, heavy equipment, or other machinery powered by an internal combustion engine.
- 2) Your business changes the lubricating oil in these vehicles or heavy equipment.
- 3) The used oil is transferred to a certified recycling facility by a used oil hauler.

If your business meets all of the above requirements, you may register as an industrial generator and receive the recycling incentive of \$0.16 per gallon for each gallon recycled.

A registration application form is available on the Board website at www.ciwmb.ca.gov. On

the "CIWMB Programs" selection list, select "Used Oil Recycling," then the "Generators" section. Scroll to "How do I register," then download the Registration Application. The application form is titled "California Oil Recycling Enhancement Program Registration Application" (CIWMB 30).

Note that if you collect used oil from the vehicles of customers (that is, you are a service station, vehicle repair shop, oil change service, etc.) then you must apply as a Certified Collection Center and use a different form, titled "Used Oil Collection Center Certification Application" (CIWMB 29).

What If I Receive "Hot"/Contaminated Used Oil?

You are not required to accept contaminated used oil. Your employees should screen used oil visually or with an EPA-approved field test kit. Your employees must direct the person who has contaminated used oil to the nearest location that accepts contaminated used oil. This information can be obtained by contacting your local public works-environmental department.

If a shipment of used oil is determined to be contaminated by your hauler, you can file a claim with the Board for up to \$5,000 once a year for the additional disposal costs.

What If I Get Used Oil Left at My Premises During Non-Business Hours?

Abandoned oil is rarely contaminated. Your employees should inspect the used oil for contamination as described. If the used oil is not contaminated, add to previously collected oil.

Can I Get a Used Oil Storage Tank For Free?

Many local governments receive used oil grant funds that may be used for costs related to used oil collection. For example, purchase of storage tanks may be funded. You are encouraged to contact your county or city recycling coordinator to determine if funds are available.

What Are the Storage and Transportation Laws for Used Oil?

Certified center operators should direct questions regarding used oil transportation and storage to the DTSC. DTSC maintains duty officers in Sacramento (916) 255-3618, Berkeley (510) 540-3739, and Glendale (818) 551-2830.

Additionally, the DTSC fact sheet titled “Used Oil and Filter Management” contains many answers to questions concerning the generation, storage, transportation, and recycling regulations applicable to used oil and filters. The fact sheet is available on the DTSC website at www.dtsc.ca.gov, under Publications and Forms/Publications Index/keyword “Oil.”

What’s the Waste Code (Written on a Hauling Manifest) for Used Oil and Oil Filters?

Used Oil: CA 221. Used Oil Filters: No waste code required if managed according to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 (Social Security), Division 4.5 (Environmental Health Standards For The Management Of Hazardous Waste) Chapter 16 (Recyclable Materials [Recyclable Hazardous Waste]), Ssection 66266.130. Basically, filters must be drained, properly drummed and labeled, and sent to a permitted recycling facility—used oil filters may not be landfilled.

Why Is My Used Oil Hauler Asking Me to Estimate the Amount of Lubricating Oil and Industrial Oil In My Storage Tank?

As part of this program, used oil haulers must submit quarterly reports to the Board that include estimates of the amount of lubricating oil and the amount of industrial oil picked up from their customers. Therefore, by keeping track of the proportions of industrial and lubricating oils that go into your tank, the hauler will be able to get an accurate account.

What Types of Permits Are Required to Become a Certified Collection Center of Used Oil?

The California Integrated Waste Management Board does not require you to have any permits to become a Certified Collection Center of Used Oil beyond the initial application. However, your local agency that is responsible for hazardous waste, called the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) will probably require a simple permit with a low annual fee. To locate your CUPA, contact your city or county environmental health department.

What is the Oil Recycling Enhancement Act?

The California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act, which is administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, is a law designed to discourage the illegal disposal of used oil. This law requires oil manufacturers to pay to the Board \$0.16 for each gallon of lubricating oil sold in California. Registered industrial generators, curbside collection programs, and certified collection centers are eligible to receive \$0.16 for each gallon of used lubricating oil recycled.

Definitions

Lubricating oil as it is defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) section 48618 includes any oil that is intended for use in machinery powered by an internal combustion engine. Lubricating oil includes oil intended for use in an internal combustion engine crankcase, transmission, gearbox, or differential in an automobile, bus, truck, vessel, plane, heavy equipment, or other machinery powered by an internal combustion engine.

Lubricating oil does not include brake fluid, power steering fluid, or oil intended for use in a two-cycle engine where the oil is entirely consumed during usage.

Industrial oil as it is defined in PRC section 48616 includes but is not limited to any compressor, turbine, or bearing oil, hydraulic oil, metal-working oil, or refrigeration oil. Industrial oil does not include dielectric fluid. Industrial oil is not eligible for the recycling fee.

For More Information

For claims reimbursement questions, call (916) 341-6176. For program questions call (916) 341-6457 or e-mail UsedOil@ciwmb.ca.gov.

