

City of Lakeland

Fats, Oils, and Grease Management Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines regarding the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of grease interceptors and sand/oil separators for the prevention of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) discharge to the City of Lakeland sanitary sewer system. The term “grease interceptor” shall imply sand/oil separator when necessary for clarification. This policy is incorporated by reference in Chapter 102 of the City of Lakeland Code of Ordinances, as amended, Section 102-102.

II. Background

The City of Lakeland, as part of our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, authorized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Water Act, is required to have an Industrial Pretreatment Program for the prevention of point source pollution. Some of the Industrial Pretreatment Program responsibilities include preventing the introduction of pollutants into the wastewater treatment facility (WWF) that would interfere with operation or pass through inadequately treated, protecting WWF personnel and the public, improving the opportunity to recycle and reclaim wastewater and sludges from the WWF, and enabling the City to comply with NPDES Permit conditions and other federal and state laws to which the WWF is subject.

The City of Lakeland initially developed a grease management policy in 1995 to address a growing number of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) caused by grease blockages throughout the City’s wastewater collection system. SSOs pose a risk to the environment and to human health, and SSOs are prohibited under our NPDES Permit. In 2004, the EPA reported to Congress that 48% of national SSO events with known causes were caused by blockages, and 51% of these blockages were contributed to or caused by grease. By implementing a FOG Management Program, the City of Lakeland can reduce the prevalence of SSOs, which will benefit the environment and human health, as well as support the City’s mission of achieving an exceptional quality of life.

III. Policy

- a. *Applicability.* A grease interceptor shall be required for all nonresidential establishments (users) that have the potential to discharge wastewater containing FOG such as:
 - i. Users that manufacture, process, prepare, pack, blend, or serve food and/or beverage products including, but not limited to, restaurants, cafés, bars, coffee shops, convenience stores, caterers, cafeterias, commercial kitchens, facilities with three-compartment sinks, and commissaries.
 - ii. Users that have the potential to discharge wastes containing petroleum-based oil and grease including, but not limited to, commercial laundries, automotive-related facilities, car washes, machine shops, and printers.
 - iii. Dumpsters and compactors with drains, as well as dumpster pad drains, directly or indirectly connected to the City sanitary sewer system.
 - iv. Other users, as deemed appropriate by the FOG Management Program, for the proper handling of wastewater containing FOG surpassing established limits.
- b. *Installation and Design Requirements.* Grease interceptors shall be designed to comply with State of Florida Plumbing Code, City of Lakeland requirements, Polk County Health Department requirements, as well as any other governing authority. To determine the

appropriate size, an engineer of record in the State of Florida and/or the manufacturer of the interceptor selected shall be consulted. The interceptor shall be sized to be both operational and functional for the intended use such as to allow compliance with all parts of this policy. Grease interceptors shall not take flow from roof drains, storm water, site runoff, or domestic wastewater. The following guidance shall also apply:

- i. All new site developments and/or sites undergoing interior renovations shall be required to install an external grease interceptor such as a gravity grease interceptor sized to comply with above. A monitoring manhole shall be provided for sampling and/or inspections. Refer to Wastewater Standard Detail No. WWS-005A for grease interceptor and monitoring manhole configurations.
 - ii. Sites undergoing interior renovations with external space constraints which will not support the installation of an external grease interceptor may install an alternative grease interceptor internal to the facility upon written approval from the City of Lakeland Water Utilities Department. This includes alternatives such as hydro-mechanical grease interceptors and automatic grease removal devices. Users with interior grease interceptors should become familiar with the health hazards associated with these devices.
- c. *Registration with City of Lakeland FOG Management Program.* The City of Lakeland requires all nonresidential establishments with the potential to discharge FOG, identified by Section III. a., to register with the City's FOG Management Program. The registration form is attached to this policy. For instructions, please contact:

City of Lakeland FOG Management Program

1825 Glendale Street
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 834-8277

FOGManagementProgram@lakelandgov.net

Website TBD – online registration available

- d. *Maintenance.* Grease interceptors shall be maintained in good operating condition at all times and shall not allow discharge which exceeds local limits or any requirement set forth in Chapter 102 of the City of Lakeland Code of Ordinances, as amended. The following maintenance requirements are set forth by the City of Lakeland and are subject to enforcement as described in Section IV of this policy:
- i. Grease Interceptors/Oil Separators External to Facility
 1. Pumping Frequency – Grease interceptors shall be pumped out completely and cleaned at a minimum frequency of once every 90 days or more frequently, as necessary, to comply with the 25% Rule described below.
 2. 25% Rule – Grease interceptors shall be cleaned at appropriate intervals to ensure that the depth of grease and solids does not exceed 25% of the total operating depth of the grease interceptor.
 3. Pumping and Cleaning Requirements
 - a. Pumping and cleaning of grease interceptors shall only be performed by a licensed hauler.
 - b. The complete removal of all grease interceptor contents is required, and the return of any of these contents to the

- interceptor is prohibited. Cleaning shall include scraping of excess grease and solids from walls, floor, baffles, and pipes.
- c. Detailed records shall be maintained indicating the date the interceptor was cleaned; the name, license number, and phone number of the hauler; and the manifests which confirm pumping, hauling, and disposal of waste material. User shall keep these detailed records onsite for three years and make them available for review by the City FOG Management Program.
 - d. Self-reported maintenance compliance – User shall send copies of hauler manifests within 10 business days of the maintenance activity to the City FOG Management Program via electronic mail to FOGManagementProgram@lakelandgov.net. Contracted hauler may send manifests on behalf of the user; however, it is the user's responsibility to ensure compliance.
- ii. Alternative Grease Interceptors Internal to Facility
 1. Alternative grease interceptors shall be cleaned at a minimum frequency of once every 30 days or more frequently, as necessary, to comply with the 25% Rule described above.
 2. Cleaning Requirements
 - a. The complete removal of all device contents is required, and the return of any of these contents to the device is prohibited. Cleaning shall include scraping of excess grease and solids from walls, floor, baffles, and pipes.
 - b. A detailed record or logbook shall be maintained indicating the date the device was cleaned; the name of employee or details of licensed hauler; and any manifests or receipts for such services, if applicable. User shall keep these detailed records onsite for three years and make them available for review by the City FOG Management Program.
 - c. Self-reported maintenance compliance – User shall send copies of maintenance logbook or hauler manifests within 10 business days of the maintenance activity to the City FOG Management Program via electronic mail to FOGManagementProgram@lakelandgov.net. Contracted hauler may send manifests on behalf of the user; however, it is the user's responsibility to ensure compliance.
 - iii. Prohibited Chemicals and Additives
 1. The use of degreasers, solvents, enzymes, emulsifiers, or other chemicals designed to liquefy or emulsify the captured grease, which would allow pass-through of FOG into the City's sanitary sewer system, is prohibited.
 2. The application of commercially available bacterial additives designed for use in grease interceptors requires a written request and approval by the FOG Management Program before use and is subject to strict approval criteria.
- e. *Requests for Variance.* All requests for variance regarding installation, design, or maintenance requirements must be submitted in writing to the FOG Management Program and are subject to approval on a case-by-case basis.

IV. Administrative

- a. *Inspections by City of Lakeland.* Personnel from the City of Lakeland shall inspect all grease interceptors and maintenance records on a regular basis. Inspections of grease interceptors internal to facilities may occur during normal business hours and could cause interruption of business and an unpleasant odor.
- b. *Noncompliance and Enforcement.*
 - i. When a grease interceptor is found to exceed the limits set forth by the maintenance requirements, above, the City of Lakeland shall notify the user, in writing, of noncompliance status and require the user to have the grease interceptor cleaned or repaired within a specified time period depending on the severity of the issue.
 - ii. If the user fails to comply with the requirements of this policy or, generally, of Chapter 102 of the City of Lakeland Code of Ordinances, as amended, after notification of noncompliance, the user will be subject to escalated enforcement actions by the City. These actions include, but are not limited to, Notice to Code Enforcement, Fines, Consent or Compliance Orders, Cease and Desist Orders, Termination of Service, and/or the user being published in a local newspaper as a facility of significant noncompliance.
- c. *Fees.* The City of Lakeland shall conduct all inspections for purposes of compliance. The following schedule of fees shall apply:
 - i. Initial inspection - no charge
 - ii. Re-inspection due to noncompliance - \$50 (fee waived for first re-inspection due to noncompliance, one time only)
 - iii. Re-inspection due to noncompliance, 2nd notice - \$250
 - iv. Re-inspection due to noncompliance, 3rd Notice - \$1,000.00
 - v. Continued noncompliance after 3rd notice - \$1,500.00 and the City will contact licensed hauler or contractor to remedy issue at owner's expense
- d. *Overflows.* If at any time the condition of a grease interceptor causes an overflow or a nuisance, the user shall immediately notify the City of Lakeland FOG Management Program, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and/or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Failure to notify within 24 hours of becoming aware of the issue shall be considered a violation of this policy and of Chapter 102 of the City of Lakeland Code of Ordinances, as amended, Section 102-102.

City of Lakeland FOG Management Program

(863) 834-8277

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

(850) 487-1395

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

1-800-HELP-FLA (1-800-435-7352)