

F.O.G./ Commercial Waste Discharge Program

FAQs

1. BACKGROUND

State Waste Discharge Requirements require the City to develop a Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) to ensure that the City's sewer system is properly maintained and that all possible measures are taken to prevent overflows.

One of the requirements of this SSMP is a Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G.) inspection program. The City's sewers are being heavily burdened by these materials and their improper discharge to the sewer system. The City passed Ordinance 1800 (HMC 13.76) in 2004 to establish a F.O.G. program and now, with the State's new regulations, full implementation is beginning.

2. What is the purpose of the program?

To ensure that commercial facilities that produce grease or other deleterious materials are disposing of these materials correctly and taking all steps to prevent illegal discharges to the sewer system or streets. This most commonly applies to restaurants and auto repair businesses. Facilities undergoing major renovations will be required to install grease interceptors.

3. What are the costs of the program?

Fees are as follows:

- Permit Fee (renewed every five years for \$172) = \$263
- Discharge Inspection Fee (for facilities with grease interceptors) = \$137 annually
- Disposal Inspection Fee (for facilities without grease interceptors) = \$339 annually

NOTE: For 2008, all businesses will be charged the \$137 Inspection Fee. The Disposal Inspection Fee of \$339 will not be implemented until 2009.

4. What do these costs pay for?

Inspections and administering the inspection program, as well as education and outreach to the public and businesses.

5. How were these fees determined?

These fees were based on surveys of other cities and agencies with similar programs.

6. How many inspections should I expect?

Each facility will get a minimum of one inspection annually. Facilities in violation or that have high potential for illegal discharge may get more inspections.

6. What will the inspector look for?

Facilities with grease interceptors must open their interceptor for inspection. The inspector will look to see that the interceptor is functioning properly and is being maintained.

Facilities without interceptors that collect their F.O.G. must show the inspector their disposal records. The inspector will also inspect the collection and storage areas.

Inspections shouldn't last more than 20 minutes.

7. How do I apply for an exemption?

Facilities asking for exemptions must make their requests to the Public Works Director. Facilities that already have Industrial Waste Discharge permits with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District are exempt.