

FAQs regarding the safe storage of used oil

The responses to the following FAQs have been prepared by the Dangerous Goods Safety Branch (part of the Resources Safety Division of the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection) to assist WA Local Government Association members with the safe storage of used oil¹.

FAQ 1

What information would I need to provide to DoCEP if I upgrade my oil storage capacity from less than 1 000 litres to more than 5 000 litres?

Generally, information only needs to be provided to DoCEP for licensing purposes.

A *Licence to Store Dangerous Goods* is, in most cases, required where used oil is stored in a tank having a capacity exceeding 5 000 litres. No licence is required for the storage of used oil in drums (e.g. of 205 litre capacity) or small containers such as 5 litre plastic packs.

Information to demonstrate compliance with *Australian Standard 1940 – The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids* needs to be provided as part of the *Application for a Licence to Store Dangerous Goods*. This information would include details of the standard used for tank design and construction; the location of the tank in relation to buildings and boundaries; spill containment; fire protection; etc. Refer to the following links for further information:

www.docep.wa.gov.au/resourcessafety/Sections/Dangerous_Goods/pdf/DG%20GMP/Storage/DG_GMP_StorLicExemp_gns301rev12_2.pdf

www.docep.wa.gov.au/resourcessafety/Sections/Dangerous_Goods/pdf/DG%20GMP/Storage/DG_GMP_Storage_gns308rev5.pdf

Note that used oil will not require licensing, even when stored in tanks of any capacity, under new dangerous goods legislation that is due for proclamation after July 2007.

FAQ 2

How long and how much would it cost for a dangerous goods licence to be issued?

A *Licence to Store Dangerous Goods* is currently issued for one year, after which time it may be renewed upon receipt of licence fees. The current fee for the storage of up to 23 000 litres of used oil is \$33-00.

FAQ 3

Are you allowed to store drums containing used oil in the large tank's bunded area?

No, it is not permissible to locate drums of used oil in the bunded area of a tank.

¹ Where 'used oil' is referred to in this document it is taken to mean a combustible liquid having a flashpoint exceeding 150°C.

FAQ 4

Will there be exemptions to the normal procedures for gaining licences or upgrading them in the current situation?

Under Section 62(5) of the *Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961*, provisions exist for the granting of exemptions from the associated regulations. Exemption requests are required to be submitted on the form located at the following link:

http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/resourcessafety/Sections/Dangerous_Goods/pdf/DG%20Forms/F_ExpFire_ST7_Rev4_ExemptRequ.pdf

An exemption request must clearly indicate why it is not possible to comply with a particular requirement and what alternative measures will be in place to achieve an equivalent level of safety.

Given that the new dangerous goods legislation, that is due for proclamation after July 2007, will be performance based, rather than the existing legislation which is prescriptive, exemptions will not need to be issued.

FAQ 5

What are the separation distances for tanks of 1 000, 5 000, 10 000, 15 000, 20 000, 30 000 litres from each other and from buildings?

A separation distance of at least 600 mm is required between horizontal tanks.

The separation distance is unrestricted for tanks containing used oil to buildings on the same site. For buildings located off the site the separation distance is unrestricted for used oil tanks having a capacity of 5 000 litres or less, 3 m for tanks greater than 5 000 litres but not exceeding 20 000 litres and 3.5 m for tanks having a capacity of 30 000 litres.

FAQ 6

What design features would we need to consider for both single and double skinned tanks to ensure compliance with DG requirements, including consideration of:

- *collision protection*
- *bunding*
- *separation distances*
- *fire control equipment*

Australian Standard 1940 needs to be consulted in relation to design features for both single and double skinned tanks. This Australian Standard also provides details regarding bunding, separation distances, fire protection, etc.