

Heavy transport industry urged to drive used oil recycling



The South African trucking industry is estimated to generate in excess of seven million litres of used oil every year. This is a vast amount of harmful contaminant that could potentially make its way into our environment

A long-distance truck can hold anywhere between 10 to 20 litres of engine oil and, according to Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)'s statistics, there are currently more than 370,000 registered heavy duty trucks on our roads. That is a conservative estimate of approximately four – up to nearly eight – million litres of used oil being generated every year by the road freight industry alone. A significant volume considering that just one litre of used oil can contaminate one million litres of water.

The ROSE Foundation (Recycling Oil Saves The Environment) says that with the industry being a significant source of used oil, it is imperative that operators within the sector remain aware of the harmful effects of this contaminant and ensure that it is properly stored and collected for recycling.

“The heavy transport industry is fairly compliant, especially the large businesses,” says Bubele Nyiba, CEO of the ROSE Foundation. “The smaller independent operators still need more education and support to ensure that they comply with the Waste Act.”

The removal of used oil for responsible recycling

“Once properly gathered and stored, used oil generators are urged to contact a ROSE registered oil collector who will come and remove the oil and take it


away to be recycled in an environmentally compliant and safe manner. Your collector must always issue you with a safe disposal certificate which is now required by law under the Waste Act, and also acts as a Hazardous Waste Manifest, thereby fulfilling the requirements of reporting by law, the same information can be used on SAWIS,” says Nyiba.

Nyiba explains the Hazardous Waste Manifest and registering on SAWIS: “If you generate in excess of 20kg of used oil per day, you are required to register on the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS).”

Once registered, the generators need to submit their figures every 90 days (quarterly) into the SAWIS. The information needs to be based on actual volumes and not estimates. The following information needs to be submitted and retained by the waste generator for five years, to be produced for inspection required:

- The month and year to which the information applies
- Category of waste; HW07 Waste Oils 01 Waste oil
- Source from which waste comes
- The quantity of waste reported in tons



According to Nyiba, most transport and trucking enterprises are compliant when it comes to the proper collection and storage of used oil, but because of the fact that only one litre of oil can contaminate one million litres of water, it is essential that each and every transport enterprise ensures that they are doing all they can to protect the environment from this harmful waste. “Our water resources are scarce. We cannot allow South Africa’s surface and underground water resources to be contaminated.” 

For more information and to find out about a registered used oil collector contact the ROSE Foundation on 021 448 7492 or visit www.rosefoundation.org.za.