

An Environmental Message On Used Oil Filter Disposal

The management and disposal of used oil filters is undergoing increased regulatory controls at federal, state and local levels. The degree and type of regulations vary by state and locality, with the most stringent regulations in some states banning landfill disposal, or requiring filters to be managed as a hazardous waste if not recycled. The primary objective of most new regulations on used oil filters is to ensure their recovery and recycling in order to capture the residual oil retained by the filter. State environmental regulations may be more stringent than, but must be at least equivalent to, those imposed by the federal government.

Many states follow federal regulatory requirements established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). USEPA regulations allow non-terne plated used oil filters to be disposed of as a solid waste once the filter has been hot drained of all free flowing oil. FRAM filters are not terne plated (terne is an alloy of lead and tin), and have never been regulated as a hazardous waste by the USEPA.

USEPA requirements for hot draining a used oil filter can be accomplished by any of the following methods.

- Puncture the filter dome or anti-drainback valve and hot drain.
- Hot drain the filter and crush.
- Dismantle and hot drain.
- Any other equivalent method of hot draining the filter that achieves maximal removal of free flowing oil.

USEPA recommends that used oil filters be drained for a minimum of twelve hours prior to recycling or disposal. Recycling is recommended by USEPA as a preferred waste management method.

As a generator of used oil filters, it is important to understand and comply with all applicable environmental regulations for filter management, including disposal or recycling. This can be difficult since filter regulations vary greatly from area to area, and are subject to change at any time.

The Filter Manufacturers Council, a trade organization representing FRAM and other filter manufacturers, has developed a comprehensive database of information on filter management issues for North America. This database includes information on state and local regulations, state regulatory contacts, and regional listings of companies which provide filter transportation, processing and recycling services. The

FMC database is designed as an information source for the customers of the filter manufacturing industry, and can be accessed by calling the filter hotline number 1-800-993-4583.

The new packaging design used for FRAM contains a recycling reminder statement to encourage customers to protect the environment. FRAM supports the recycling of used oil filters to protect the environment and to conserve resources. Not following proper procedures for hot draining filters and ensuring their proper disposal may result in pollution of the environment.

It is incumbent on generators of used oil filters to verify that the professional hauler or recycler which collects their used filters is in accordance with all the applicable regulations, including regulations governing the ultimate disposition of the filter and its residual by-products. FRAM believes proper filter disposal is an important issue, and has established an environmental program to assist its customers in addressing specific filter disposal and recycling issues.

