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Small Business The Advocate

For and about small businesses affected by environmental regulations

Healthy Environment. Strong Business. Good Sense.

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Regulatory Roundup

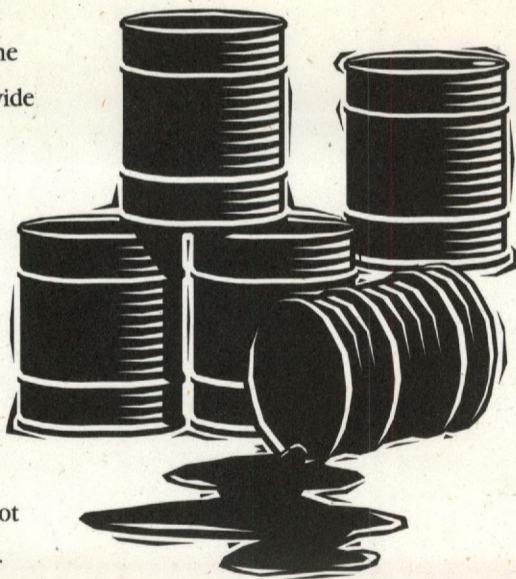
Used Oil Handlers

TNRCC commissioners adopted rules that affect used oil handlers such as marketers, transporters, transfer facilities, processors, re-refiners, and off-specification used oil burners. New rules are:

- A one-time registration replaces the biennial registration requirement.
- Processors and re-refiners only report in odd-numbered years for their yearly activities; other handlers are no longer required to report to the TNRCC.
- Handlers, excluding marketers, must provide evidence of financial responsibility to the TNRCC by June 17, 1998. Transporters must provide a certificate of insurance.
- Handlers, excluding transporters, with an active area (where oil is stored, transported, or processed) greater than 1,000 square feet must provide financial assurance for that area. Handlers with an active area less than 1,000 square feet are not subject to the assurance require-

ments but must inform the Municipal Solid Waste Division in writing that they have an active area less than 1,000 square feet.

Handlers who meet certain technical requirements can reduce their assurance coverage by 90 percent and still meet the minimum requirement for coverage. Note that some insurance companies may require coverage beyond the regulatory limit. For more detailed information, call the Municipal Solid Waste Division at 512-239-6696 or 1-888-TxCrude. ■



Universal Waste Management Petitions

TNRCC commissioners are considering two petitions that would affect the Universal Waste Management Program. Pending final rules, Commissioners have granted conditional approval to add paint and paint waste to the program. The other petition seeks to add lamps containing mercury. The proposed rules would give businesses greater flexibility to handle, dispose and recycle waste. ■

S.B. 1591: Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1997

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is proposing rules to implement S.B. 1591, which passed in the 1997 legislative session. The Act directs the TNRCC to allow alternative methods of complying with statute or rule requirements on pollution control or abatement. Alternative methods must be as protective of the environment and public health as the original requirement and must not conflict with federal law. ■

Online Alternative Solvent Guide Available for Free

If you're ever looking for a solvent substitute for metal degreasing and cleaning, there's no need to look any further. SAGE (Solvent Alternatives Guide), a free and easy-to-use software program, can answer your questions and tell you what processes and chemistries can replace your current system. The SAGE handbook comes in DOS, Macintosh, and Windows and is also available on the World Wide Web at <http://clean.rti.org>.

For availability and more information call Chuck Darvin with the EPA Air Pollution and Control Division at 919-541-7633 or Greg Bray at 919-541-8031. ■

Coating Alternatives Guide Now Online

CAGE (Coating Alternatives Guide) is an online pollution prevention tool that recommends low-emitting coating alternatives as potential drop-in replacements. The service is designed for small- and medium-sized businesses that coat metal and plastic parts. The CAGE Internet Web site is <http://cage.rti.org>. You can also call or e-mail your questions to one of the following:

- Dean Cornstuble, Research Triangle Institute; 919-541-6813, e-mail: dean@rti.org
- Michael Kosusko, EPA, 919-541-2734; e-mail: mkosusko@engineer.aacr.epa.gov

Risk Reduction Rules

TNRCC is completing a proposal that broadens the Texas Risk Reduction Rules. New rules would create cleanup standards and a uniform approach for all waste programs. The proposed rules may be reviewed on the agency Web site:

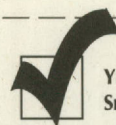
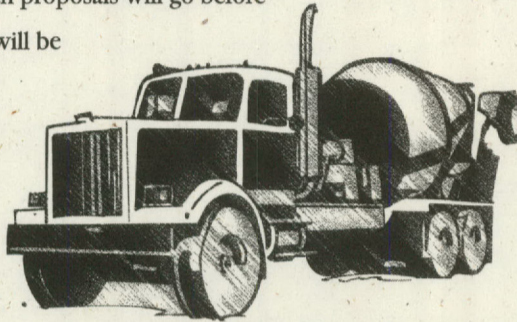
www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/waste/riskrul3.htm ■

New Standard Permit and Exemption Change for Concrete Plants

A new standard permit has been proposed to the TNRCC commissioners that would be issued to plants that:

1. produce no more than 300 cubic yards of concrete per hour;
2. pave all traffic areas within 200 feet of their neighbors; and
3. pave their entry, exit, and aggregate delivery roads.

A second proposal aims to combine the temporary batch plant and specialty batch plant exemptions into one. Both proposals will go before the commissioners in May and then will be published for public comment. For more details, call the Small Business Assistance Program office hot line at 1-800-447-2827. ■



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Printer Workshop — Corpus Christi	June 4
Houston/Galveston Small Business Advisory Committee Meeting — Houston	June 4
Golden Triangle Small Business Advisory Committee Meeting — Beaumont	June 5
Auto body/Auto Service workshop — San Antonio	June 9
RCRA Waste Record Keeping Workshop — Fort Worth	June 10
Denton	June 11

For details, call SBAP at 1-800-447-2827

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