

9 FOG Collecting and Disposal Proper Practices

9.1 Introduction

Grease interceptor cleaning is performed by permitted grease haulers (see FOG haulers' permitting in 7.2 and a list of permitted FOG haulers in Tuscaloosa in Appendix D.10). The cleaning entails pumping the interceptors completely dry and having all liquids, solids and grease removed from the interceptor. FOG haulers also collect the grease stored in grease bins and barrels. All collected FOG is transported to the WWTP where it is disposed of, with the exception of yellow grease which is used for recycling.

9.2 Grease Interceptor Cleaning

The interceptor cleaning begins with cleaning of the top grease layer. Using the truck suction hose, the top layer of FOG is vacuumed up first. The bottom layer consisting of the heavier sludge and FOG is vacuumed up next. In the last step, the remaining "water" or liquid is pumped out to leave the interceptor completely empty (Figure 46). This may be followed by high-pressure water scrubbing (Figure 47). "Definition of clean" means the tank is entirely pumped out (Figure 48).

Decanting is a practice of returning wastewater from a grease hauler truck back into the grease interceptor after it is vacuumed out. Decanting is not allowed. This wastewater has high grease and solids content and low pH, may be contaminated from the hauler's previous load and cause odors.



Figure 46: Vacuuming out the contents of the interceptor.



Figure 47: Use of high pressure water and suction hose.



Figure 48: Cleaned interceptor.

FOG haulers are required to keep a complete record of facilities cleaned and submit such records (manifests) to the Tuscaloosa Health Department (THD) when requested, as per ADPH's Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Rules. The form used for this purpose is a FOG Hauler Manifest included in Appendix D.9. It is a standard form that enables FSEs recording the times and volumes of FOG pumped and removed from their facility, and gives FOG haulers proof that they have properly discharged the collected FOG loads. It serves the City tracking the grease after it has been collected until it has been disposed and enables the City to assess the FOG haulers for the FOG quantities disposed at the plant.

The form has three parts that are filled in as follows:

Top portion is filled in by the FSE representative who signs and dates the form when the waste is removed, specifies the number of GRDs cleaned and estimates quantity of FOG removed in gallons.

Middle portion is filled in by the FOG hauler who before leaving the FSE fills in details about hauler business, driver and truck's Access Pass Card (City's truck permit), and after discharging FOG at the plant dates the form to indicate date of discharge.

Bottom portion is filled in by the City's Database Specialists after entering information into the database (Lucity FOG, see 6.4).

The Manifest is printed on a carbonless white/canary/pink form (Figure 49).



Figure 49: FOG Hauler Manifest printed on a carbonless 3-sheet form (white/canary/pink).

The steps in filling and processing the Manifest are shown in Figure 50. (Instructions how to fill in the form are written on the back page of the form, Appendix D.9). The FSE keeps the PINK copy of this manifest after the hauler has accepted the waste. After collecting FOG loads from one or more FSEs, the FOG driver will discharge the FOG load at the WWTP (the procedure described in Section 0). At that time, the driver dates the forms from each FSE and leaves the original WHITE copy in the drop box at the WWTP plant and retains the CANARY copy for company records. The original form is forwarded to the City's Database Specialists who enters the information into the City's database and retains original copies of the manifests for a period of 1 year. It is the FSE's responsibility to keep the PINK copy of the manifest at the FSE and make it available to the SSO/FOG Investigator upon request at inspection. It is the FOG Hauler's responsibility to keep the CANARY copy of the manifest at the Hauler's place of business and make it available upon request.

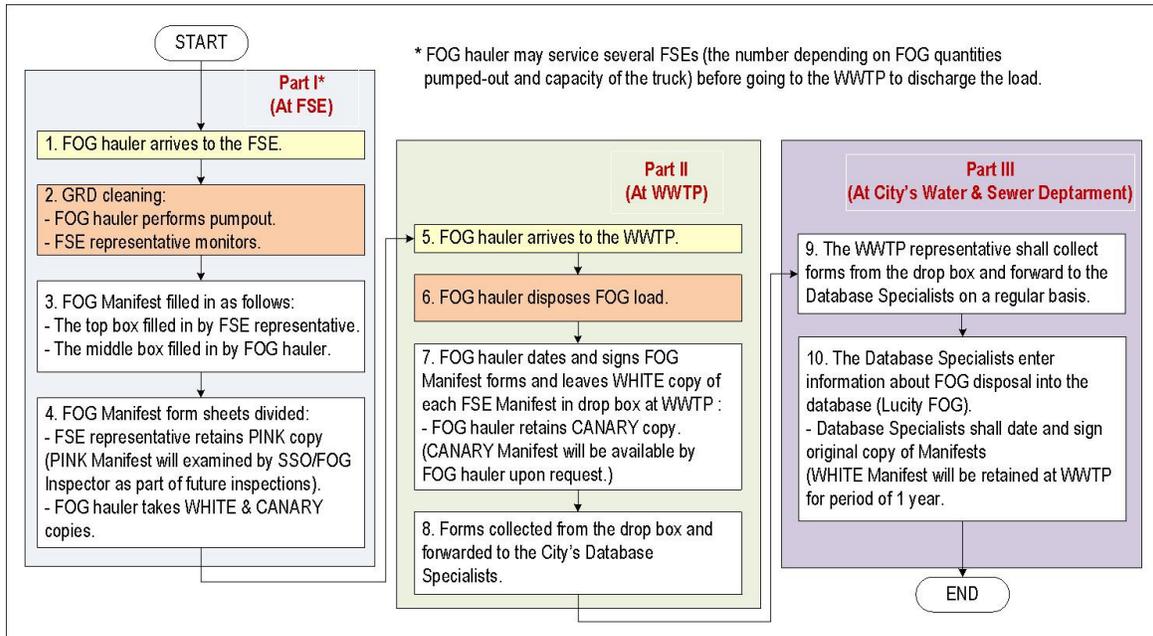


Figure 50: FOG Manifest form lifecycle.

9.3 FOG Disposal at WWTP

FOG haulers discharge their grease loads at the WWTP's FOG/Septage Receiving Station adjacent to the WWTP's Influent Pump Station. There are a total of six receiving holes located in the receiving area adjacent to the plant's influent pump station (Figure 51), which convey the trucks' discharge directly to the plant's influent pump station.

The receiving station area also contains three subsurface holding basins that can receive questionable or more toxic hauler loads (Figure 52). Separate discharge holes are used when haulers trucks are discharging to the holding basins, i.e., the discharge flow from the "regular" receiving holes cannot be redirected to the holding basins.

Only permitted FOG haulers should access the plant using the issued gate access device provided by the City when the FOG hauler permit is issued. The City may monitor and record the arrival of FOG haulers at the WWTP receiving area using CCTV equipment. Each hauler should leave FOG Hauler Manifest form at the drop box provided by the City at the FOG/Septage receiving area. The manifest provides a listing of the locations where they collected the grease loads and the FOG quantities that were collected at each of these locations (Appendix D.9). Once the dumping begins, it takes about 10 min to empty the truck. After dumping, the driver washes down the area.



Figure 51: A hauler truck discharging into a receiving hole in a receiving area adjacent to the plant's influent pump station.



Figure 52: Three subsurface holding basins for questionable or more toxic hauler loads.