

Oil & Gas Operations and Support Services Sector

Code of Practice Guide



**Alberta Capital Region
Wastewater Commission**

Table of Contents

- 1 Oil and Gas Operations and Support Services Sector
- 2 Code of Practice and Environmental Best Management Practices
- 3 Code of Practice Requirements
- 5 Next Steps



Oil and Gas Operations and Support Services Sector

The Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission's (ACRWC) Source Control program has identified Oil & Gas Operations and Support Services Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) facilities as significant contributors of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) to the region's sanitary sewer system.

An Oil & Gas Operations and Support Services ICI is defined as any business with operations including but not limited to:

- Oil and gas upgrading, refining or distribution
- Oilfield services,
- Bulk liquid products transport,
- Waste recycling,
- Industrial laundering,
- Heavy-duty vehicle and/or equipment washing and/or servicing.

TPH and VOCs – Why shouldn't they be discharged?

Some discharges of TPH and VOCs can be highly toxic even in very low concentrations or can lead to a flammable or even explosive environment within the municipal sewer systems. Therefore, control of these substances at the source to comply with municipal bylaws is paramount for the protection of human health, the environment and structural integrity of the sewer system.





Code of Practice and Environmental Best Management Practices

ACRWC has created an Oil and Gas Operations and Support Services **Code of Practice (COP)** which contains **mandatory requirements** for businesses included in the sector. The COP sets out:

- Minimum effluent pretreatment
- Equipment maintenance
- Hazardous wastes containment
- Spill response
- Discharge monitoring
- Record-keeping requirements.

Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) have also been developed **to help** operators adhere to the requirements of the COP and reduce the amount of contaminants discharged to the environment in an effort to comply with regulations and to improve overall waste management practices.

Benefits of the COP

- Helping businesses reduce their environmental impact
- Preventing poor quality discharge into the regional watershed
- Eliminating the discharge of toxic, flammable or explosive materials into the wastewater flow to protect the health and safety of the public, municipal utility employees, other workers and to protect municipal infrastructure.
- Reducing the amount of contaminants discharged to the regional wastewater treatment plants which in turn reduces poor quality discharge into the watershed.

Code of Practice Requirements

As part of the Oil & Gas Operations and Support Services Sector Code of Practice, ICIs have the following mandatory requirements that must be achieved by January 1, 2019:

Registration

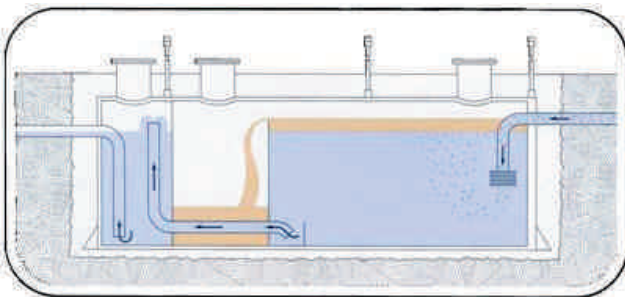
Businesses meeting the criteria defining an Oil & Gas Operation or Support Service (Page 1) shall register to operate in accordance with the COP using ACRWC's *Code of Practice Registration Form for Designated Sector Operations*. Registration shall be completed within 90 days of the date when the COP is adopted by the municipality in which the business is located.

Pretreatment

All process wastewater will be required to pass through pretreatment works such as an oil/water separator before discharging to the sewer. Wastewater from washrooms, non-industrial washing machines and change rooms shall bypass the treatment works. The separators shall be readily and easily accessible and shall be equipped with a monitoring point.

Separator Maintenance Checklist

- Do not allow solids to exceed **25%** of the wetted height
- Do not allow floating oil and grease to exceed **5%** of the wetted height
- Inspect it **at least** once every 3 months
- Clean it out **at least** once per year



Example of an in-ground, three-stage oil/water separator

Code of Practice Requirements

Monitoring

Businesses required to operate in accordance with the COP shall conduct the following sampling:

- Quarterly sampling of Oil & Grease – mineral and synthetic/petroleum hydrocarbons which may be reduced to an annual frequency based on quarterly sampling results.
- Annual sampling of BTEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene) and flashpoint (°C - closed cup method).

All sampling documentation and records must be kept for a minimum of two years.

Reporting

Report all sampling results to ACRWC on an annual basis. Additional reporting to ACRWC shall occur within seven days of determining a Restricted waste limit has been exceeded, as set out in Schedule ‘B’ of ACRWC’s Bylaw No.8 for one or more of the following:

- Oil & Grease – mineral and synthetic/petroleum
- BTEX
- Flashpoint

Report all test results and exceedances to
discharge@acrwc.ab.ca

Storage and Containment

Used solvent-containing wastewater, used antifreeze, used oils, used oil filters, used engine and transmission fluids, above ground oil or fuel storage tanks and any hazardous waste or hazardous recyclable as defined in provincial (Alberta) legislation must be stored with spill containment.

Spill Response Plan

Businesses within the Oil & Gas Operations and Support Services Sector must have a spill response plan outlining prevention, inspection and cleanup procedures for spills.

Next Steps

Once you have determined that your business falls into the Oil and Gas Operations and Support Services Sector the following steps are to be completed:

REGISTER

Register your business using ACRWC's *Code of Practice Registration Form for Designated Sector Operations* found at: acrwc.ab.ca

COMPLY

Ensure that your business meets the minimum requirements of the COP by January 1, 2019.

- Install an oil/water separator or other pretreatment device for all process water before discharging to sewer.
- Ensure that your separator is properly maintained and cleaned. Keep all records of this for a minimum of two years.
- Ensure that spill containment is in place
- Have a spill response plan

REPORT

Complete the required quarterly and yearly sampling. Send all sample results to discharge@acrwc.ab.ca. Report any Hydrocarbon, BTEX and Flashpoint exceedances within seven days to discharge@acrwc.ab.ca.

BENEFIT

The COP is a benefit to your business through:

- Environmental stewardship
- Protection of the health and safety of your employees and the public
- Protection of your infrastructure
- Avoidance of costly fines.

For more information on the Oil & Gas Operations
and Support Services Sector Code of Practice, contact:

Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission

Tel: 780.467.8655

Email: discharge@acrwc.ab.ca

Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission

The commission provides responsible wastewater transmission and treatment for member municipalities and strives to exceed regulated standards for wastewater, serving as environmental leaders and enabling member growth.

Members

City of Fort Saskatchewan

City of Leduc

City of Spruce Grove

City of St. Albert

Town of Beaumont

Town of Bon Accord

Town of Gibbons

Town of Morinville

Town of Stony Plain

Leduc County

Parkland County

Strathcona County

Sturgeon County



**Alberta Capital Region
Wastewater Commission**