

Notice of City of Fort Collins policy to issue wastewater fines for grease interceptors that do not comply with maintenance requirements.

Food service establishments with grease interceptors that discharge to the City of Fort Collins sanitary sewer are required to maintain their grease interceptor in continually efficient operating condition (City Code Section 26-339).

Grease interceptors within the service area of the City of Fort Collins sanitary sewer are routinely inspected by a representative of the City. In order to pass an inspection, a grease interceptor must have no more than 33% of the inlet or outlet chamber liquid holding capacity filled with grease, oil, fat, and solids. The interceptor must also be in good working condition (i.e. all fittings and baffles are in place and the interceptor is operating as designed).

Grease interceptor inspections will be performed by the City at a minimum of twice per year. If an interceptor fails an inspection, it will be put on an accelerated inspection frequency and will be inspected quarterly until compliance is regained for two consecutive quarters. At that time, the interceptor will return to an inspection frequency of twice per year. The inspection frequencies summarized above are guidelines and may be adjusted by the City as needed to ensure a grease interceptor is maintained in continually efficient operating condition.

Beginning July 1, 2013, fines will be administered in a facility's bill for wastewater service when more than one inspection failure occurs within a period of four rolling quarters. Each grease interceptor will be allowed one failure per four-quarter rolling period without a monetary fine. A fine will be issued if there is a second inspection failure within four rolling quarters, and the fine amount will increase as the number of inspection failures increase.

The escalating enforcement action for failure of grease interceptor inspections is summarized below:

- When one compliance inspection failure occurs within a period of four rolling quarters, a notice of inspection failure will be issued. There will be no fine, but the accelerated inspection frequency is triggered.
- When two inspection failures occur within a period of four rolling quarters, a notice of inspection failure will be issued and a \$75 fine will be assessed in the wastewater bill.
- When three inspection failures occur within a period of four rolling quarters, a notice of inspection failure will be issued and a \$200 fine will be assessed in the wastewater bill.
- When four inspection failures occur within a period of four rolling quarters, a notice of inspection failure will be issued and a \$400 fine will be assessed in the wastewater bill.

City Code Section 26-350 authorizes the assessment of fines for wastewater violations by inclusion of the fine with the billing for wastewater service. The fine will be identified on the utility bill as “grease violation”. When an inspection failure occurs, the City will provide notification to the business and, if different from the business, the party responsible for payment of the facility’s wastewater bill.

Inspection failures prior to April 1, 2013, will not be considered for determining fines. In effect, all grease interceptors will start Quarter 2, 2013 with a record of no failures. Inspection failures occurring in Quarter 2, 2013, or after, will be subject to escalating enforcement action and fines as summarized above.

Please contact the city’s Industrial Pretreatment office at (970) 221-6938 for additional information.