

As part of the licence conditions, it will be a requirement for the FSE to ensure that their grease traps are properly maintained and cleaned out by waste companies authorised to do such work and ultimately, disposed of to an authorised facility.

This is required to harmonise the collection and disposal of FOG with legal requirements covering waste collection and disposal.

DCC's contractor, when carrying out their quarterly monitoring inspection of a premises, will then carry out an audit of transportation and disposal of FOG waste to ensure compliance with these requirements.

In a similar manner to all other trade effluent licences, there will be an annual licence fee to be paid by the outlet to DCC. This annual fee has been calculated – based on the Polluter Pays Principle - to simply reflect the costs to DCC of implementing the programme to the industry.

It will be a flat annual fee varying from €590 for canteens up to €1630 for hospital kitchens. The fee for pubs, restaurants and supermarkets is €870.



DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Environment and Engineering Department

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Programme



Who to Contact for More Information?

**Dublin City Council
Drainage Division
Block 1, Floor 2
Civic Offices
Wood Quay
Dublin 8**

Tel: 01 - 222 2155



FATS, OILS AND GREASE (FOG) PROGRAMME

Background

Dublin City Council's Drainage Division has experienced a significant increase in the number and frequency of blockages in the public drainage network caused by Fats, Oils and Grease. These blockages can result in flooding and/or environmental pollution of rivers and streams.

FOG causes a problem when it is simply washed down the drains, in commercial kitchens, either during food preparation or in the washing up operation. When it cools it will congeal and accumulate in pipelines thus eventually blocking the pipe.

The effect is similar to a build up of cholesterol in the arteries of human beings!

Removing the solidified lumps of FOG from public sewers is very expensive and labour intensive. For traffic reasons, any work on main roads and city centre streets is becoming more and more restrictive to carry out.

Most recently, removing a serious FOG blockage from a short length of pipeline in the Clontarf area cost us an estimated €150,000.



Rather than be exposed to such escalating maintenance costs, Drainage Division has launched a programme to proactively manage what is a particularly troublesome liquid waste produced by the catering/food preparation industry.

Our maintenance records indicate that FOG is a serious problem in areas where there are concentrations of Food Service Establishments (FSE) such as pubs, restaurants, hotels, takeaways, convenience stores, etc. This is in line with international experience that now identifies FOG as a major problem in managing both the drainage network and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

These problems are rarely experienced within residential areas. To cater for the domestic sector, Dublin City Council provide a used cooking oil facility at several Bring Centres throughout the city.

Hence this programme will focus on Food Service Establishments.

The FOG Programme

The objective of the FOG programme is to prevent blockages in the public drainage network by restricting the discharges of FOG from FSEs.

In line with best practices internationally in the environmental field, Drainage Division will control the discharge of FOG to the drainage system by issuing licences under the Water Pollution Act, to an FSE. These licences will require the individual outlet to limit the amount of FOG they can discharge down their drains.

Long established technology such as grease traps, already widely used in the industry, will assist in achieving compliance with these limit conditions. Best Management Practices (BMP) will also be identified and encouraged in all aspects of managing the problem within an individual establishment.

Dublin City Council has appointed a contractor, Compliance Consulting Ltd, to implement the programme. Their role will be to inspect a premises, then identify any FOG related issues that require attention, advise the premises on Best Management Practice and get the operator to apply to DCC for a trade effluent licence to cover their FOG discharges. Following the granting of a licence by DCC, the contractors role shall then move onto a monitoring level whereby they will carry out an inspection of a premises four times a year to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the licence.

