



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

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Building Development Department
David Gilson
Deputy Building Official

2/21/19

Memorandum

To: All Permit Applicants

From: David Gilson, Deputy Building Official

Subject: Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Policy

Effective immediately, this policy shall be initiated for all new or remodeled commercial projects that provide any food related products. This definition shall include, but not limited to, any product that would be considered or intended to be edible for humans, animals, insects, pets, farm animals, and the like. Any establishment that falls into these criteria shall have an interceptor capable of removing the unacceptable liquids from the waste product prior to entering the municipal sewer system. The installation of these interceptors shall be installed in a readily accessible location on the exterior of the building with test ports on the outlet side whenever possible. Interior installations will be approved on a case by case basis.

We, the City of Tarpon Springs, have determined the requirement for separators are not clearly defined in the Florida Building Code or the Florida Administrative Codes and have been effectively left to the municipality to decide when and where they are required based on the local conditions. We have further determined due to the local conditions coupled with the transient nature and changing conditions of our local food related establishments, a more stringent requirement for the installation of separators is required.

From this point forward, any projects submitting for building permits with food related occupancy shall have a means for separation of the FOG's (fats, oils, grease). A request may be made for the deletion of the separation requirements to the Building Department and Utilities Department. Any such request shall be reviewed on a case by case basis and the decision of the two departments shall be final. In the case of a split decision, the Utilities Department shall be the prevailing department. The criteria of the decision shall be based upon, but not limited to, the location of the business, the type of business, the size of the space, the zoning of the location and the potential for future expansion of the site.

This policy shall not be intended to replace or redefine the policies that are in place from the Utilities Department regarding installation of interceptors in existing businesses. If any business is found to be introducing FOG's beyond acceptable amounts, as determined by the Utilities Department, an interceptor shall be installed or upgraded to reduce the FOG's to an acceptable level.