

ORDINANCE NO. 23-602

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 18 CHAPTER 2 SECTION 217 OF THE ALCOA MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING SEWAGE DISPOSAL

WHEREAS, the City of Alcoa operates a wastewater collection system for the use and benefit of Alcoa residents, businesses, and industries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alcoa and the City of Maryville jointly own the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTP) which treats the wastewater collected from both cities' collection systems; and

WHEREAS, the cities are required to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws, regulations, and policies required by the Clean Water Act of 1977, the State of Tennessee's General Pretreatment Regulations (Chapter 1200-4-14), and the Federal Pretreatment Regulations (40 CFR, Part 403), each of which is amended from time to time, as they apply to the operations of the cities' wastewater collection systems and the RWWTP; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alcoa has promulgated certain rules and regulations to ensure the same; and

WHEREAS, said rules and regulations require periodic review and revision as State and Federal requirements are amended;

Be it ordained by the City of Alcoa, as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 18 Chapter 2 Section 217 be amended by deleting all references to the previous and replacing as follows:

Grease, oil and sand traps and separators.

(1) General Requirements.

Gravity-type separators, interceptors, or other such devices for the removal of oil, grease, sand, grit, glass, entrails, or other such material likely to create or contribute to a blockage of the wastewater collection system or otherwise interfere with the operation of the City's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) are required at:

- a) Applicable commercial sources such as restaurants, also known as "Food Service Facilities" (FSF's);
- b) Where required by the International Plumbing Code adopted by the city, and amended by the city; or
- c) Where required by other ordinance or regulation of the City of Alcoa.

Such devices shall be of a type and capacity approved by the City's inspector and shall be located so as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning, pumping, and inspection.

(2) Design, Review, and Approval of Traps and Interceptors (Separators).

- a) Grease Trap: An internal device, usually located under or in close proximity to sinks or other fixtures likely to discharge grease. All grease traps must be installed with a flow restrictor and vent.

- b) Grease Interceptor or Separator: An external device consisting of a large tank or device so constructed as to separate and trap or hold fats, oil, and grease substances by way of an internal baffle. Grease Interceptors are typically located outside of FSF's due to their size.
1. The minimum size of grease interceptor for stand-alone FSFs allowed by the City of Alcoa shall be 1,000 gallons.
 2. Required grease interceptor size will be determined by the City of Alcoa.

During the plans review conducted by the City of Alcoa personnel of proposed commercial and industrial developments, the need for traps or separators will be determined. If a trap or separator is required, detailed plumbing plans shall be submitted to and approved by the Public Works and Engineering Department prior to commencement of construction.

All grease traps and interceptors shall meet design criteria noted above and as described in the City of Alcoa Public Works and Engineering Department's *Wastewater Collection Construction Specifications*. Persons wishing to install precast concrete septic tanks or concrete tanks as interceptors shall submit to the control authority. A field inspection shall be required to ensure that the installation complies with the approved drawings and that adequate baffling has been installed.

The location of the trap or separator should be placed in an area that is clear of the discharge and flow from rainwater down spouts or other stormwater conveyances. Traps or separators shall not be located in flood-prone areas. Traps or separators shall be placed in areas where they can be easily inspected and serviced.

(a) New Food Service Facilities (FSF's):

New FSF's, whether in stand-alone buildings or part of multi-tenant structures, will have external grease interceptors, sized according to Fixture Units (FU's), as described in the City's *Wastewater Collection Construction Specifications*. All gray-water piping with the potential of carrying grease from dish-washing sinks, floor and trench drains, can washers, commercial dishwashers, etc., shall be plumbed to the external grease interceptor.

(b) Multi-tenant Buildings:

Mixed-use multi-tenant buildings shall choose between designation of reserve area for future stand-alone grease interceptors at accessible, predetermined, and pre-plumbed locations for future grease interceptor or shall have a centralized external grease interceptor for the entire structure, with size determined during design and installed at the time of construction.

Each individual unit of the subdivided building shall be plumbed to connect or be designed to connect to the predetermined location or with the overall grease interceptor at the time of construction on the assumption that each unit might, at some future point, be retrofitted into an FSF.

For centralized grease interceptors, any floor drains and gray water piping for each sub-unit shall connect to the grease interceptor at the time of construction, with the option of connecting other gray-water lines if needed. If a unit is not initially designated to function as an FSF, this drain can be capped/covered until such time as it might be required for connection.

Mixed-use multi-tenant buildings with both businesses and apartments will only require grease interceptor gray-water plumbing for the commercial portions. Black-water sewage plumbing from the residential and commercial segments will be plumbed straight to the sanitary sewer.

For the commercial portion of mixed-use buildings utilizing the centralized grease interceptor, the external grease interceptors shall be a 1,500 gallons, plus 300 gallons additional initial capacity for each unit in the building. (For example, a 6-unit building will initially need a minimum 1,500 gallon tank capacity, plus 1,800-gallons, totaling 3,300 gallons, rounded up to 3,500 gallons.)

If one or more of the sub-units are planned as FSF's at the time of the initial design and will utilize the centralized grease interceptor, the grease interceptor volume for those units shall be sized according to the Fixture Unit formula. The capacity shall be as described in the City's Wastewater Construction Specifications, based on the FSF's plumbing at the time of design. The calculated tank size shall be used plus 300 gallons-per-unit for the rest of the building in determining the size of the centralized grease interceptor.

If non-FSF units are later converted to FSF's, their plumbing shall be evaluated and reworked as much as possible to direct grease-collecting drains to the grease trap by way of the previously installed piping. (See "Buildings Retro-fitted as FSF's".)

(c) Buildings Retro-fitted as FSF's:

FSF's are encouraged to locate in facilities that are already designed with adequate grease interceptors and related plumbing in place.

For existing buildings considering retrofitting as FSF's, first consideration should be given to installation of external grease interceptors and related plumbing where possible. If an existing facility's plumbing cannot be altered, or if an external grease interceptor cannot be installed due to lack of room or access or necessary gravity flow, commercially manufactured under-sink grease trap devices may be used, with the approval of the City of Alcoa Public Works and Engineering Department. These traps shall be sized based on flow rate, the number of plumbing fixtures, the menu of the FSF, and a two-hour retention time.

For mixed-used buildings that were designed for the possibility of becoming FSF's, the new internal plumbing plan shall be evaluated according to the Fixture Unit method to determine if the existing grease interceptor has sufficient capacity. If not, a portion of flow from the plumbing fixtures (including the existing floor drain) shall be directed to the existing grease trap, and the facility may also use separate grease trap devices installed at sinks.

Floor drains can only drain to external grease interceptors. If a floor drain does not exist in a retro-fitted building and it is required, an external interceptor and related plumbing must be installed.

NOTE: Commercial dishwashers cannot be used with under-sink grease traps. In cases of retrofits, commercial dishwashers (if used) must be plumbed to an external grease interceptor, or if under-sink grease traps are used in lieu of grease interceptors, dishes must be hand washed.

(3) Exemptions.

Commercial FSF's already in operation prior to adoption of the City's initial grease trap and interceptor program were initially excluded from the external grease separation requirements of this section, and were allowed to use under-sink or internal grease storage tanks without the installation of external grease interceptors. However, any subsequent physical alterations or remodeling at these sites, or changes of tenant, ownership, or business type, or changes in menu where food handling/processing/preparation is expanded to include grease and oil-containing foods, require immediate reevaluation, installation, and subsequent maintenance of grease separators or interceptors, as defined within this Ordinance.

Additionally, such devices that were installed under the original exemption are allowed to remain in service until such time as the control authority determines that the device is not preventing prohibited substances from entering the POTW, or that the device is not being maintained with adequate frequency. If the control authority makes such a determination, the establishment shall install grease traps and interceptors as required in full compliance with this section.

(4) Maintenance of Traps and Separators.

It shall be the duty of every establishment required to have traps or separators to maintain the devices, have the devices pumped whenever the level of grease or other substance has reached the top of the effluent pipe from the device, when the fats, oils, greases and/or settleable solids become twenty-five percent (25%) of the tank's total working depth, and/or when it appears to the control authority that prohibited substances are leaving the device and are being discharged into the POTW.

Mechanical or manual agitation of the contents of the grease trap or separator is prohibited during normal operation. However, agitation is allowed during cleaning to assist in the removal of the fat, oil, grease, or other trapped solids, but this may not cause a discharge to the sanitary collection system.

The use of any additives or chemicals that liquify, emulsify, and/or disperse fats, oils, and grease in the trap/separator or will cause fats, oils, and grease to discharge to the sanitary collection system is prohibited.

Any biological agents may only be used with prior approval of the City of Alcoa Public Works Director. Such approvals will be granted on a case-by-case and site-specific basis. High-strength caustics and acids are prohibited from entering the grease trap or separator. Approved agents may only be introduced prior to the trap/separator, and the dosage must not exceed the capacity of the trap/separator.

Use of under-sink grease traps require cleaning and emptying at a much greater frequency than in-ground interceptors, and this should be considered when weighing the benefits of using these devices.

Each establishment is required to maintain a maintenance log with an original copy of the manifest on all traps and separators. The log shall show the date of all cleanings, the name of the person and organization performing the cleaning, and the disposition of the removed substances. Copies of each pumping manifest must be retained for twelve (12) months. The maintenance log

shall be available during business hours for examination by the City, and a copy of the log shall be submitted annually to the City. Failure to comply with the reporting requirements shall be deemed a violation of this chapter of the Alcoa Municipal Code.

- (5) Disposal of Trap and Separator Wastes.
Acceptable disposal options for the wastes removed from traps and separators include recycling collectors and trash disposal or commercial collectors. All grease traps shall be pumped out entirely, and no portion of the removed material shall be returned to the trap or separator. Disposal methods shall comply with all state and local regulations.
- (6) Periodic Inspection of Traps and Separators.
Personnel from the City of Alcoa shall be permitted ready access to inspect all traps and separators for compliance with the municipal code. For noncompliance inspection and pumping violations, the user shall be issued a seven (7) day notice to come into compliance. Failure to correct noncompliance within the seven (7) day period will result in termination of water service. If termination of water service will possibly result in a threat to public health, the trap or separator will be pumped and cleaned by City of Alcoa personnel. The user shall then reimburse the City of Alcoa for all labor, equipment, supplies, and disposal costs incurred by the City to pump and clean the trap or separator. The charges will be billed directly to the user.
- (7) Charges and Fees.
Users required to install and maintain a gravity-type separator, interceptor, or other such device shall be subject to payment of fees that may be adopted by the City. All fees will appear on the user's utility bill. In the event that the user fails to pay the fee, water service shall be terminated until such time as all fees and any other charges, including late charges, have been paid.
- (8) Violations.
Any person who willfully or negligently violates any provision of this section or any orders or permits issued hereunder shall be subject to enforcement action as set forth in § 18-208 herein. (As added by Ord. #00-003, Feb. 2000, amended by Ord. #02-021, Sept. 2002, replaced by Ord. #13-305, April 2013.)
The following situations are subject to an enforcement response by the City of Alcoa:
- FSF operating without an appropriate permit;
 - Failure to pay annual permit fees;
 - Failure to install grease control equipment or to meet City of Alcoa guidelines for grease control equipment design and installation;
 - Structural failure of grease control equipment;
 - Inadequate maintenance of grease control equipment;
 - Pumping records not maintained;
 - Failure to report upgrades/changes to existing facilities to the City of Alcoa;
 - Failure to report improper operation or failure of grease control equipment;
 - Denial of entry;
 - Inadequate FSF employee training and/or record-keeping;
 - Failure to respond to City of Alcoa enforcement action.

Emergency Suspension of Services: The City of Alcoa may suspend water or wastewater service when such suspension is necessary, in the opinion of the City, in order to stop an actual or threatened discharge which:

- Presents or may present an imminent or substantial endangerment to the health or welfare of persons or the environment;
- Causes stoppages, sanitary sewer overflows, or excessive maintenance to be performed to prevent stoppages in the sanitary sewer collection system;
- Causes interference to the POTW; or

Causes the City to violate any condition of its NPDES permits, orders, or consent decrees.

SECTION 2. That said ordinance shall take effect forthwith upon its final passage, the public welfare requiring it.

/s/ Tanya Martin
Mayor

(THE SEAL)
(OF THE CITY)
(OF ALCOA)

ATTEST:

/s/ Kimberly Wade
Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Stephanie Coleman
City Attorney

Passed on First Reading November 14, 2023 /s/ Kimberly Wade
Recorder

Passed on Second Reading December 12, 2023 /s/ Kimberly Wade
Recorder

The foregoing ordinance was entered of record this 13th day of December 2023.

/s/ Kimberly Wade