

December 1993

92 FCR 001

## CLASSIFICATION OF USED OIL

### Issue:

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCFBC) approved special changes to the National Fire Code 1990 regarding the reclassification of used lubricating oil as a Class IIIA liquid.

### Background:

The following information is in reference to the National Fire Code 1990.

The CCFBC Standing Committee on Flammable and Combustible Liquids reviewed the requirements for waste oil presently located in Section 4.5 Service Stations, of the National Fire Code. The Standing Committee analyzed the results of five independent studies done in the United States and Canada on several hundred samples of waste oil. These studies clearly demonstrate that tested samples of waste lubricating oil drained from motor vehicles, both from repair garages and from individuals, have flash points well above 60°C (Class IIIA), with an average flash point above 93.3°C.

### Alberta Fire Code 1992 Requirements:

#### 4.3.19.1. Storage and Handling

(1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) and (3), the storage and handling of *used oil* shall conform to the appropriate requirements for the storage and handling of *flammable liquids* contained in this Part. (See Appendix A.)

**A-4.3.19.1.(1)** Used oils often contain both oil and more volatile flammable liquids, such as gasoline and solvents. The hazard presented by the mixture is governed by the more volatile component. Since there is no way to ensure that more volatile liquids are not mixed with the oil, used oils should be treated as flammable liquids.

### RULING

Used oil that comprises solely of motor vehicle crankcase drainings is considered a Class IIIA combustible liquid and must conform to the appropriate requirements for the storage and handling of **combustible liquids** contained in Part 4.

ISSUE OF THIS RULING IS AUTHORIZED  
UNDER ARTICLE 1.1.4.4. OF THE ALBERTA  
FIRE CODE 1992 BY THE SENIOR TECHNICAL  
OFFICER, FIRE STANDARDS.

C.M.TYE



**Technical Services**

705, 10808 - 99 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 0G5

**LABOUR**

Client Services Division