

FOG Ordinance Template [Open in Desktop App]

_____ [City/Town/County] FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) Ordinance

Purpose:

Identify the Problem: Identify the problem or issue that the FOG ordinance seeks to address. FOG ordinances are typically created to address excessive FOG in the collection system, sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), and excessive FOG related maintenance. Understand the context, background, and the specific challenges or concerns that have led to the need for the ordinance.

Determine the Goals: Define your desired goals and objectives. What do you hope to accomplish by implementing this regulation? Think about the desired outcomes and the impact it should have on the community, environment, public health, safety, or any other relevant area.

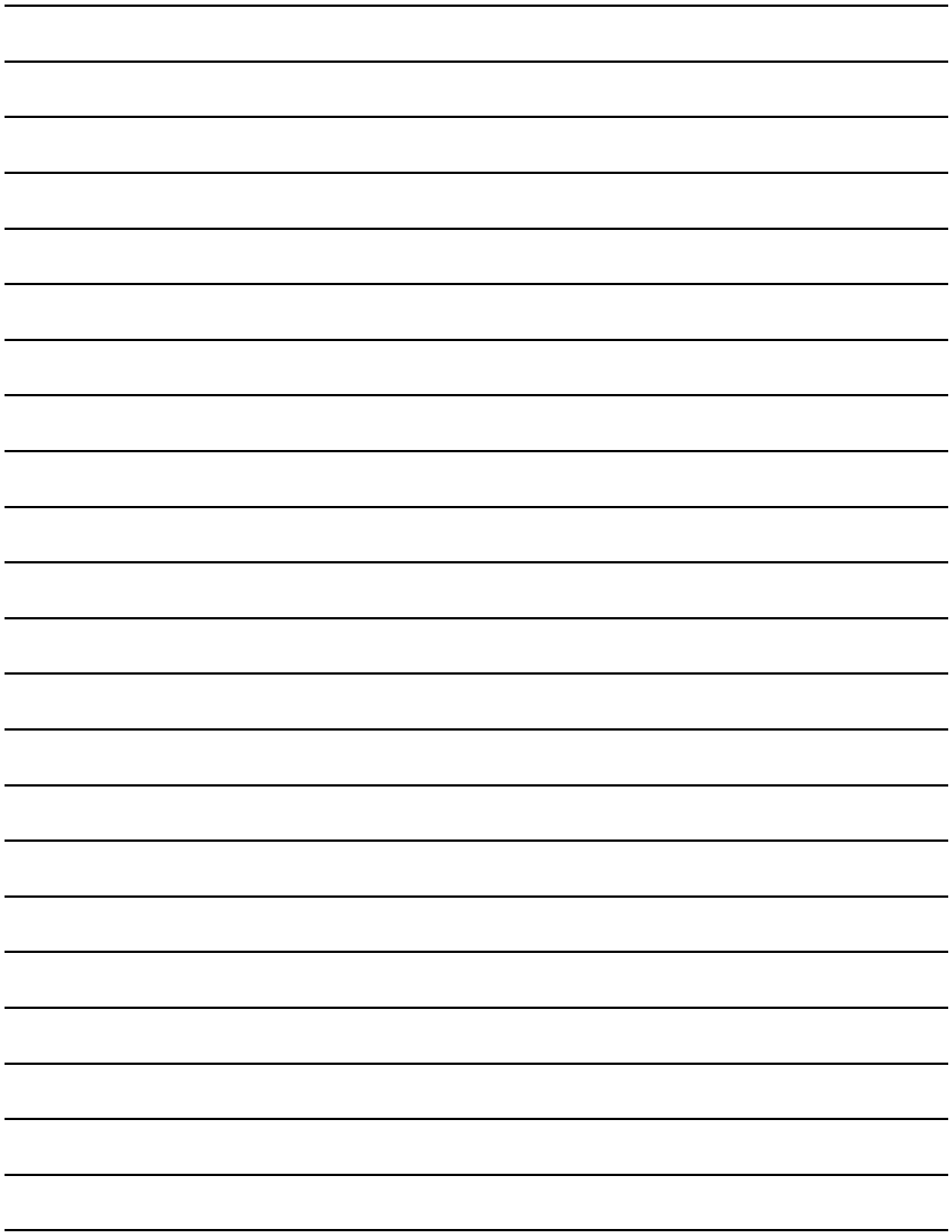
Be Clear and Concise: Craft a purpose statement that is clear, concise, and easily understood by the target audience. Use simple language and avoid unnecessary jargon or technical terms that may confuse or alienate readers if possible.

Highlight the Benefits: Emphasize the benefits or positive impacts that the ordinance will bring. Clearly articulate how the regulation will address the identified problem, improve conditions, protect public interests, or enhance the well-being of the community.

Align with Legal Authority: Ensure that the purpose statement aligns with the legal authority under which the ordinance is being enacted. Reference relevant laws, statutes, or regulations that grant the authority to implement the ordinance.

Identify Stakeholder's: What stakeholder's does in your community need to be considered? Stakeholder's should be kept in mind along with the various perspectives and concerns throughout the writing process. Strive to strike a balance that reflects the needs and interests of different groups while fulfilling the broader objectives of the regulation.

Authority: Determine what authority the ordinance is enacted under and include throughout the document. The department or agencies responsible for administering and enforcing the ordinance should be clearly referenced.



Program Details/ Procedures:

The program details/ procedures section of a FOG ordinance should provide specific information about the requirements, processes, and procedures involved in implementing and enforcing the FOG ordinance and the authority's FOG program. Each of the components of the program should be outlined here. You should consider including the following segments when writing the program details/ procedures.

Definitions: Define key terms and phrases used throughout the ordinance. Ensure that these definitions are clear, concise, and aligned with any existing legal or regulatory definitions. This section helps to avoid ambiguity and provides a common understanding of the terms used.

Requirements and Standards: Outline the specific requirements, standards, or conditions that must be met to comply with the ordinance. This section should provide detailed guidelines for individuals, businesses, or organizations affected by the ordinance. Include measurable criteria, technical specifications, and any necessary documentation or certifications.

Permits and Licensing: Describe the process for obtaining permits or licenses related to the ordinance. Include information about application procedures, fees, renewal requirements, and any supporting documentation or inspections necessary. Specify any conditions or limitations associated with the permits or licenses.

Reporting and Record-Keeping: Specify the reporting and record-keeping requirements associated with the ordinance. Define the frequency, format, and content of required reports. Identify the types of records that must be maintained and the duration of record retention. Clarify who has access to the records and any confidentiality provisions that apply.

Education and Outreach: Describe any educational or outreach initiatives associated with the ordinance. Explain how public awareness will be raised, how stakeholders will be engaged, and what resources or support will be provided to help individuals or organizations comply with the ordinance.

Amendments and Revisions: Outline the process for amending or revising the ordinance in the future. Specify the conditions under which amendments may be made, such as changing circumstances, new information, or evolving needs. Describe the steps required for proposing, reviewing, and implementing changes to the ordinance, including public notice and engagement.

Effective Date and Transition: Clearly state the effective date of the ordinance and any transition provisions for existing activities or entities. Provide guidance on how to transition from previous practices to the requirements of the ordinance.

Grease Interceptor Specifications:

The grease trap specifications section establishes guidelines and requirements for the design, installation and maintenance of grease interceptors. These specifications should reference any standards or regulations, such as UPC, NSF, etc., used to develop these specifications. The following should be included in this section:

Grease Trap Sizing: Define the sizing criteria for grease interceptors based on the type and capacity of the establishment. Specify the required flow rate (gallons per minute) that the grease interceptor should be able to handle. Reference any websites or software recommended to determine grease interceptor sizing. This segment is used to ensure that grease interceptors are not oversized or undersized, and that requirements are uniformly for all users.

Grease Interceptor Components: List the typical components of a grease interceptor and how they should be oriented in the device.

Installation Requirements: Describe the location and installation guidelines for grease traps. Specify that all grease traps must be installed by a licensed professional in accordance with relevant plumbing and building codes. Provide guidance on proper venting, access points, and any additional requirements for installation. Diagrams can be utilized in this section for clarity.

Additional Appliances: Specify the types of appliances that can or cannot be attached in-line with the grease interceptor. This will typically apply to dishwashers, which are not typically recommended to be connected to the grease interceptor.

Chemical Restrictions: Detail the type of chemicals such as detergents or cleaners that should not be introduced into the grease interceptor. This segment prevents chemicals that may break down FOG and pass FOG problems downstream.

Cleaning Requirements:

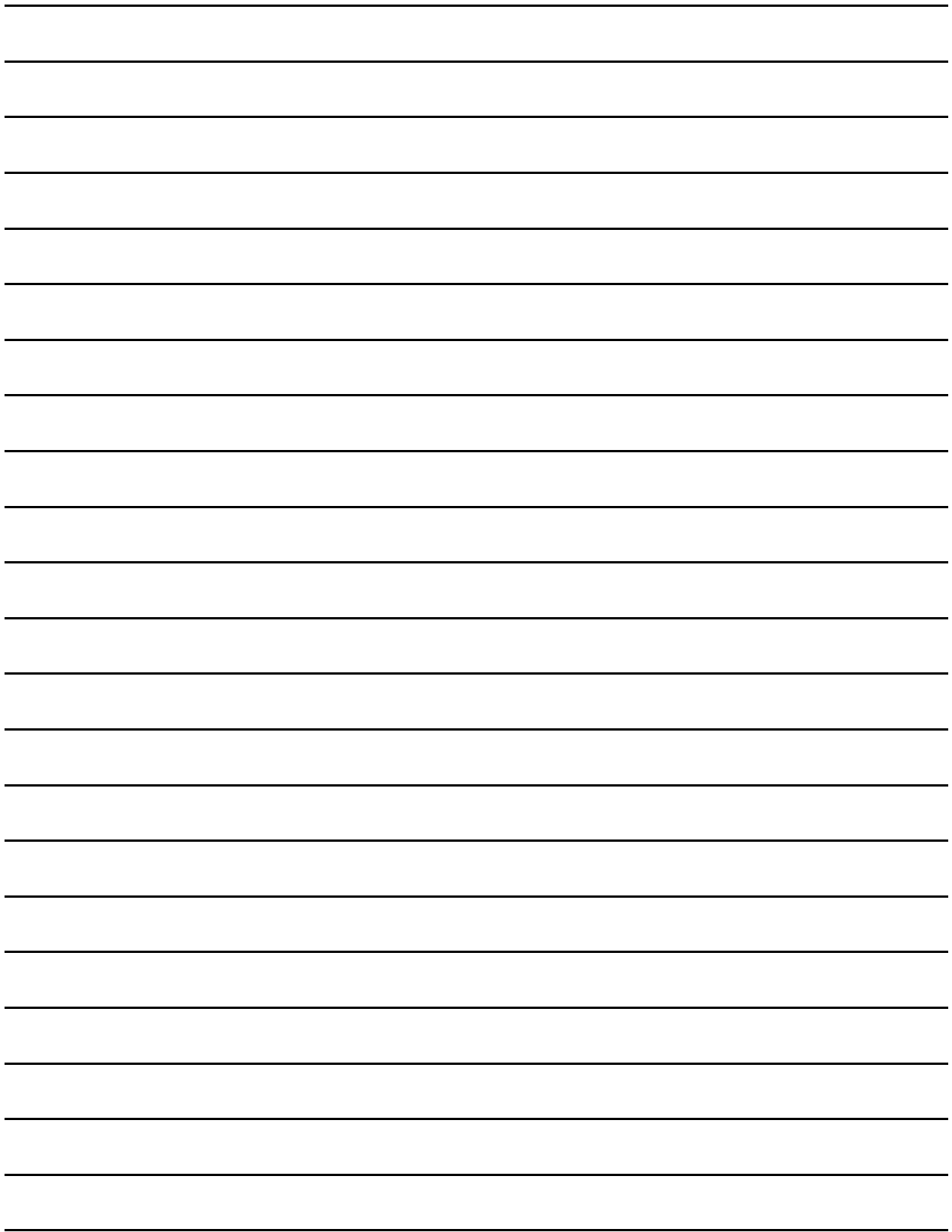
This section should provide details for the cleaning requirements of both grease interceptor owners and grease interceptor cleaners. These details should be determined by desired regulations, industry standards, and community needs. The following information should be considered for this section:

Frequency: A minimum cleaning frequency should be established for all grease interceptor users. This may be determined based on need, manufacturer recommendations, and community needs, but industry standards typically recommend 90 days to 6-months maximum.

Inspection: Regular inspections are important to assess the condition of the grease interceptor and determine if cleaning is necessary. Inspections should be recommended as a best management practice to ensure compliance with the FOG ordinance. Inspections should be performed by a trained professionals or trained food service establishment (FSE) personnel who can check for signs of excessive grease accumulation, blockages, or other issues that may affect the interceptor's performance. It is a good practice to require FSEs to report these issues.

Grease Removal: Describe requirements for grease interceptor cleaners. These requirements should include the complete evacuation of the grease interceptor and requirements for introducing water back into the device. This section may also describe any permit requirements to clean grease interceptors or haul grease interceptor waste and how it should be disposed of. This item should be used to protect grease interceptor equipment and ensure cleaners are disposing of FOG properly.

Record Keeping: It is important to maintain proper documentation of all cleaning and maintenance requirements. Specify what information this documentation should entail including dates, cleaning frequency, grease interceptor condition and maintenance provider information, and how long this documentation should be maintained for.



Inspections:

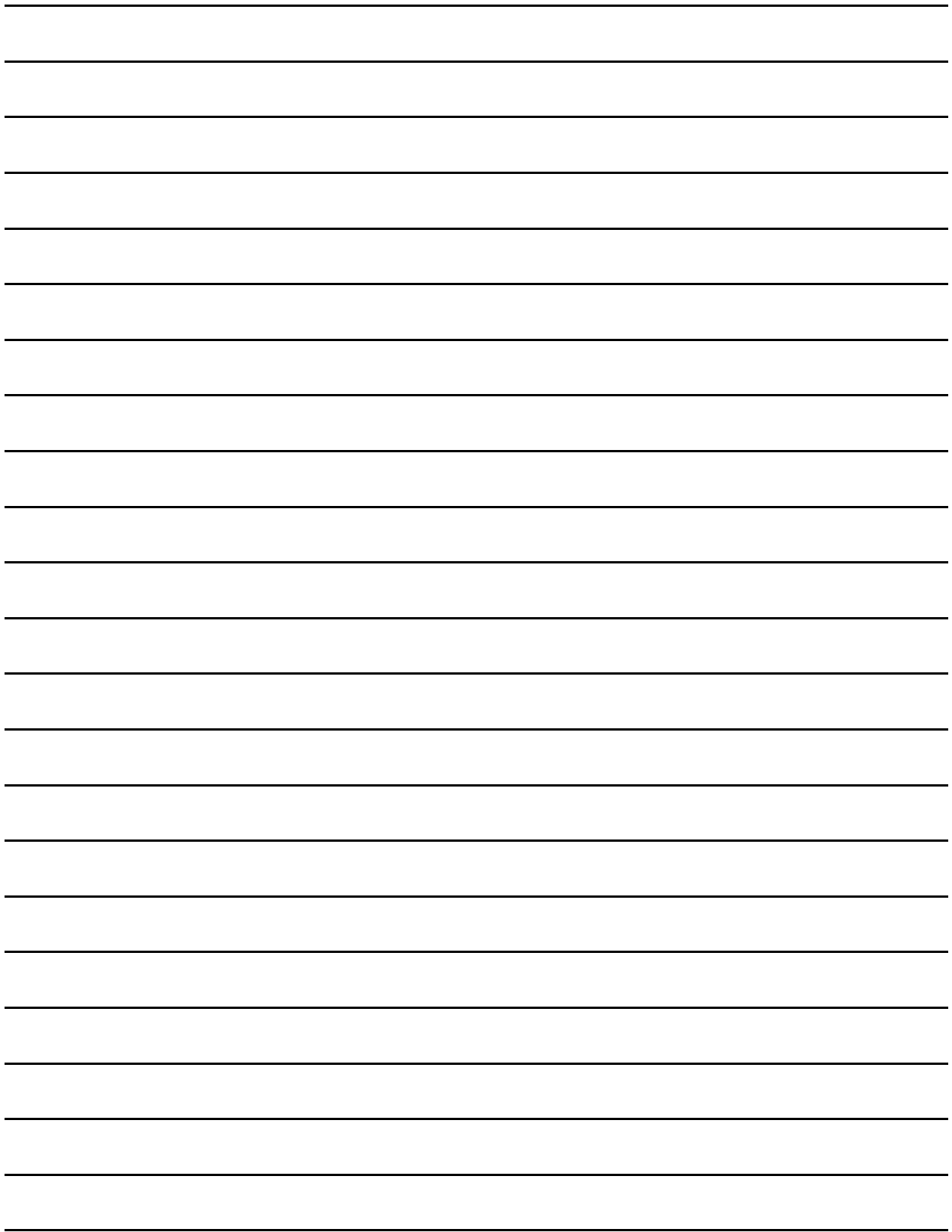
This section should provide details for how the authority plans to conduct periodic inspections of FSEs to verify compliance and protect the collection system. The following information should be considered for inclusion in this section:

Inspection Frequency: Specify the minimum frequency that the sewer authority will be conducting inspections at FSEs and other facilities requiring grease interceptors. This frequency should be based on industry standards, regulatory requirements, and the capacity for the system to perform monitoring. This frequency should be frequent enough to hold FSEs accountable to interceptor requirements. Inspections should be avoided during lunch time hours such as 11:00-1:00 pm, but grease interceptor access should be unobstructed at all times. This information is good to include in the FOG ordinance to reassure stakeholders that requests will be reasonable.

Documentation Requirements: Specify what documentation the inspection will require, which should reiterate the required documentation listed in the FSE and grease interceptor cleaner section. This should also reiterate the time frame that documentation should be kept for.

Inspection Procedure: Specify the steps that will be taken during the monitoring inspection. This should include a thorough evaluation of the condition, assessing the grease level of the grease interceptor, and an inquiry of the FSEs best management practices. This may include how grease levels will be monitored and any analysis that may be administered. It is recommended that the section state that all findings should be recorded and a copy of the report given to the FSE.

Access: Indicate requirements for access to a FSE's grease interceptor access. This should be reasonable, but establish the sewer authority's right to inspection and an unobstructed interceptor.



Enforcement:

This section should explain how compliance with the ordinance will be enforced. Outline the roles and responsibilities of the enforcing agency or authorities, including investigation processes, violations of ordinance compliance regulations, and penalties for non-compliance. This section may include the inspection section of the ordinance, due to the overlap of information. Include information about appeals or dispute resolution mechanisms. This section may comprise of the following:

Definition of Violations: Clearly define what constitutes a violation of the FOG ordinance. This could include illicit discharges of FOG into the sewer system or storm drains, failing to install, maintain, or properly use grease traps, interceptors, or other approved FOG control devices, and neglecting to submit required reports or documentation related to FOG control measures.

Penalties and Enforcement Measures: Specify the penalties for violating the FOG ordinance. These penalties can be progressive, increasing in severity for repeated violations. Enforcement measures may include fines, citations, or other appropriate legal actions. This section may include, or reference a Fee Schedule.

Notification and Corrective Actions: Outline the process for notifying violators of their non-compliance and the steps they must take to correct the issue. This could involve written warnings and deadlines for resolving the violations.

Appeals Process: Establish a clear procedure for businesses or individuals to appeal any citations or penalties they believe were issued in error.

Coordination with Regulatory Agencies: If applicable, mention any coordination with state or federal regulatory agencies involved in FOG control.

