



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

# Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION**: Use of Re-refined Lubricating Oils

Date: September 7, 1999

From: *Melissa J. Allen*  
Melissa J. Allen  
Assistant Secretary for Administration

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Departmental Officers  
Heads of Operating Administrations  
Director, BTS  
Director, TASC

Executive Order 13101, *Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Procurement*, Section 507 requires all Federal agencies to implement the procurement guidelines for re-refined lubricating oil and retread tires. Agencies are encouraged to take immediate steps to procure these items in accordance with Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Recent summaries of lubricating oil purchased by the Department from the Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) indicate that our efforts need to be increased and met with greater conviction to be in compliance with the Executive Order and RCRA. During Fiscal Year 1999, only 4 percent of our DSCR purchases met the re-refined requirement. This is in spite of the fact that re-refined oil is on the whole cheaper than virgin oil.

In order to strengthen the Department's compliance with Executive Order 13101, I have requested the DSCR substitute re-refined lubricating oil for all DOT orders for virgin lubricating oil (see attachment). I have made the request to DSCR at this time for a number of reasons including:

- Re-refined lubricating oil and virgin lubricating oil meet the same performance specifications;
- Re-refined oils are now readily available at a competitive cost;
- The big three auto-makers have stated in writing that the use of these oils does not invalidate warranties; and
- Several other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the Department of Justice have instituted policies requiring the use of re-refined lubricating oil.

2

I ask each of you to make this policy known within your organizations and ensure that they follow this guidance. The Department will make every effort to comply with the Executive Order and RCRA.

**Attachment**



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

Assistant Secretary  
for Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

September 7, 1999

Rear Admiral Mark A. Young  
Defense Supply Center Richmond  
8000 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Richmond, VA 23297-5762

Dear Admiral Young:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is taking action to strengthen our commitment to recycling and the procurement of environmentally preferable products containing recycled content material. Specifically, DOT wants to increase our use of re-refined lubricating oil and to move toward full compliance with Section 507 of Executive Order 13101, *Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Procurement*.

I am requesting the Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) fill all of the Department's orders for virgin lubricating oil with re-refined lubricating oil that meets the terms of Executive Order 13101. Of course, if DSCR is unable to fill an order with re-refined lubricating oil, it should temporarily fill the DOT order with comparable virgin oil. Concurrent with this request, I will be directing DOT components to order and use only re-refined lubricating oil where it is available from normal supply sources.

Your agency's compliance with this request will greatly assist the Department in meeting its obligations under Executive Order 13101. If your staff has any questions regarding this request, they should contact Catherine Johnson on (202) 366-0266.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa J. Allen".

Melissa J. Allen