Transporting Sludge Wastes in Texas

A Guide to Registration, Operating, and Reporting

This guide will help anyone who transports the following types of wastes understand and follow Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regulations.

- sewage sludge/biosolids
- domestic septage (septic tank waste)
- chemical toilet waste
- grease trap waste
- grit trap waste
- water treatment residuals

This publication is not a substitute for the rules. Rules that apply to transporter activities can be found in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 312, Subchapter G. The rules related to fees and definitions that pertain to sludge wastes can be found in 30 TAC 312, Subchapter A. View or download the TCEQ's rules. In addition to the TCEQ, local governments and other state and federal agencies may have rules that apply.

Registration

Obtaining the Registration Form

Registration of sludge waste transportation activity is required by 30 TAC 312.142(a). To register your activity, submit the Municipal Sludge Transporter Registration/Renewal/Update form (TCEQ-00481). Use one of the following methods to obtain the form:

- Go to TCEQ's Forms Search and enter the form number or name in the appropriate search field.
- Contact TCEQ's Industrial and Hazardous Waste/Municipal Solid Waste Registration and Reporting Program at 512-239-6413 or wasteval@tceq.texas.gov.
- Call or go by any of our regional offices. Find a regional office near you.

Completing the Form

The form asks for information that we must collect about everyone we regulate—including you (the customer), your business, and your activity as a transporter of sludge wastes [30 TAC 312.142(b)]. Refer to the instructions linked on the form or in the forms search. Make sure to have the following handy:

1. tceq.texas.gov/rules
2. tceq.texas.gov/search_forms.html
3. tceq.texas.gov/goto/regions
• Tax identification numbers from the Texas Secretary of State or Comptroller of Public Accounts (unless registering as an individual).

• The permit numbers for the disposal facilities you plan to use. Contact the facility for this information or search for the facility’s permit or registration number in TCEQ’s Central Registry.4

• The license plate, year, make, and capacity of each motor vehicle that transports sludge wastes.

• A check or money order payable to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to purchase the vehicle authorization stickers.

If your application is incomplete, we will make two courtesy calls within five business days to obtain the missing information. If we do not obtain the missing information, we will return your unprocessed application to you with a letter describing the corrections needed [30 TAC 312.142(b)]. We will retain the payment for the vehicle authorization stickers you sent with your initial application so that you do not need to resubmit payment when you resubmit the application paperwork.

When you send us forms and payments, make sure to:

• Make copies of the forms before mailing them and keep the copy on file at your place of business.

• Fully complete and sign form TCEQ-00481. For updates, submit only the parts being updated and Part G.

• Include your check or money order and make a copy for your records. If you already have a registration, write your five-digit registration number and your seven-digit account-identification number (it begins with “08”) on the memo line of the check or money order.

When You Receive Your Registration

After TCEQ processes your registration, you will receive a confirmation letter, a notice of registration, and vehicle authorization stickers. The confirmation letter and notice of registration will show your five-digit registration number. Make sure to have your registration number handy whenever you contact us.

Notice of Registration

Your notice of registration contains the information you gave us in your application about your business, the disposal facilities you will use, the waste(s) you transport, and your vehicles. Check all pages to be sure the information is correct and notify us if you find any errors. Make enough copies of your NOR to put a complete set in each motor vehicle that transports sludge wastes under this registration and another set at your office or place of business. You must always keep a current copy of your NOR in these locations [30 TAC 312.142(c)]. If you cannot show your current registration when you transport waste to a disposal facility, then the facility will have to report the incident to the appropriate TCEQ regional office within three days [30 TAC 312.145(d)].

Vehicle Authorization Stickers

You will receive one set of stickers for each motor vehicle listed on your registration [30 TAC 312.142(j)]. Place these stickers on the vehicle as described in the

4. tceq.texas.gov/permitting/central_registry
"Staying Compliant" section of this publication. These stickers are not transferable to other vehicles or new owners.

**Keep Your Registration Current**

TCEQ regulations require that you keep your NOR up-to-date [30 TAC 312.142(c)]. Notify us within 15 days of any of the changes listed below. Submit the applicable parts of TCEQ-00481 for any changes to your operation or NOR, such as:

- Changing the business name, physical address, mailing address, or telephone number.
- Adding a type of waste or a disposal facility.
- Adding or replacing motor vehicles.
- Updating license plate numbers.
- Replacing lost or damaged vehicle authorization stickers.
- Buying another registered transporter's business.
- Selling your business.

For the following changes, you must update your registration and receive a revised NOR from us before you do any of the following:

- Transport a type of sludge waste that is not already on your registration.
- Transport sludge waste with a vehicle that is not already on your registration.
- Deliver sludge waste to a disposal facility that is not already on your registration.

Deadlines and other information specific to each type of change are given under the corresponding heading in this section. You only need to submit the parts of TCEQ-00481 that pertain to your updates as well as Part G.

To confirm your changes, we will send you a confirmation letter and a revised NOR. Check all the pages in the NOR to ensure that the information is correct. If you find any errors, notify us immediately.

**Changing the Business Name, Address, or Phone Number**

If you change the name, phone number, or mailing, physical, or email address, of your business, you must send the TCEQ-00481 form to us within 15 days after the change. Submit:

- Part A for changes to your physical address.
- Part C for changes to your mailing address, phone number, or email address.
- Part G (required for all updates).

**Adding Types of Waste or Disposal Facilities**

To add or remove a waste type or a disposal facility to your registration, submit Parts E and G of TCEQ-00481. If you plan to remove a waste type or disposal facility that you no longer use, you must do so within 15 days [30 TAC 312.142(f)(3), (5), & (6)].

**Adding, Removing, Updating, or Selling Vehicles**

To update vehicle information on your NOR, submit Parts F and G of TCEQ-00481. Submit changes to vehicle information within 15 days of the change [30 TAC 312.142(f)(4)].

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To add vehicles to your registration, you must submit Parts F and G of TCEQ-00481 and purchase a vehicle authorization sticker for each additional vehicle. Make sure you have a current NOR in each added vehicle. Do not use any vehicle to transport wastes until you have received that vehicle's authorization sticker and have marked the vehicle as described in the "Staying Compliant" section of this publication.

If you remove a vehicle from your registration, you must remove the TCEQ registration number, TCEQ vehicle authorization stickers, and your company's name and telephone number from the outside of that vehicle [30 TAC 312.144(a)(4)(B)]. You must also update your registration when the vehicle information (such as the license plate number) changes or to replace missing vehicle authorization stickers. If you sell a vehicle, the vehicle's sticker cannot be used by the new owner. You must update your registration to remove the vehicle and its sticker.

**Buying a Registered Transporter's Business**

When you buy a registered transporter's business, you do not “buy” the TCEQ registration with it. The former owner will need to cancel their registration. If you do not already have a registration, then you must apply for one [30 TAC 312.142(e)(1)]. If you already have a registration, then you must take one of these two actions:

- If you plan to maintain separate registrations, then apply for a separate new registration for the business you are buying using all parts of TCEQ-00481. Do this if the two businesses will have different tax identification numbers/individual owners or different locations tied to the registrations.
- If you plan to combine the business you purchased with the business you already own, update your registration with the new vehicle information using Parts F and G of the TCEQ-00481 form. Do this if you are merging the two businesses under the same tax identification number or individual and location tied to your registration.

**Renew Your Registration Prior to the Expiration Date**

Every other year, your registration will expire on Aug. 31 [30 TAC 312.142(d)]. You must renew your registration even if you have recently updated it. Submit your renewal by June 15 of the year your registration expires. To find out when your registration expires, look for the date next to “Expires” on your NOR or on your vehicle authorization stickers. To renew your registration, you must complete either:

- The renewal form that will be mailed to you before renewal.
- The same form you used for your original application (TCEQ-00481). If you use TCEQ-00481 to renew your registration, you must include all parts of the form and re-submit all disposal facilities and vehicles you use when transporting sludge wastes.

As a courtesy, in May of the year your registration expires, we will send a preprinted renewal form with the preprinted Annual Summary Report that we send each year. See the "Reporting" section of this publication for more information about the annual reporting requirements. If you do not receive these forms by mid- to late May, it is your responsibility to get a copy. Go to our website to download a blank ASR5 (TCEQ-00316) or contact us to obtain the forms. If you have completed both your ASR and renewal forms prior to June 15 of the year your registration expires, you can mail your

5. tceq.texas.gov/publications/search_forms.html
renewal forms, your payment for vehicle authorization sticker fees, and your ASR together.

TCEQ will send you a new NOR and vehicle authorization stickers after we process your renewal. If you make changes to your registration information on your renewal, those changes will not become effective until you receive an updated NOR and vehicle authorization stickers with your new expiration date.

**Cancelling Your Registration**

You must notify us within 15 days if you stop operating as a transporter for any reason, including the sale of your business [30 TAC 312.142(d)]. To cancel your registration, submit an ASR for the report year in which you plan to cancel. At the bottom of the report, check the box to indicate that you would like to cancel your registration. On the blank next to the cancellation check box, enter the last date you hauled waste, which will be the effective date of your cancellation. Report all waste hauled during the reporting period prior to the effective date of cancellation. For example, if you put Jan. 21 as your effective date of cancellation, you would report all waste hauled from Jun. 1 through Jan. 21 of the reporting period.

When we receive this final ASR, we will send you a final invoice for the annual transporter fee. You must pay this fee even if you sold your business or did not haul waste during the reporting period. If you do not return your final ASR by the July 1 due date, we will charge you the maximum annual transporter fee of $500 for this final reporting period [30 TAC 312.9(c)].

When you cancel your registration, you must not continue to transport sludge wastes. You must remove your TCEQ registration number, TCEQ vehicle authorization stickers, and your company's name and phone number from all motor vehicles listed on your NOR [30 TAC 312.144(a)(4)(B)].

We will mail you a letter confirming your cancellation. Check the letter to be sure the information is correct and notify us immediately if you find any errors. Keep this letter for your records.

Be sure to cancel your registration as soon as you stop transporting sludge wastes. If you do not, these situations can arise:

- Because you are no longer in business, you might forget to file the required ASR. If this happens, we will charge you the maximum annual transporter fee of $500 for that reporting period.

- Another reporting period (June 1 through May 31) could begin before your registration finally expires. (Registrations expire Aug. 31 every other year.) Even though you are out of business and transport no waste, you will receive an invoice for the period when your registration was still active from June 1 through Aug. 31. If you submit the ASR by the July 1 deadline, that invoice will be $100. However, if you fail to submit the required ASR on time, that invoice will be $500.

**Staying Compliant**

As a registered transporter, you must stay aware of and comply with all applicable operating requirements, including what to display on your vehicle, where to keep your documents, and how to transport, store, and dispose of waste.
Vehicle Marking, Authorization Stickers, and Documents

Each motor vehicle that transports sludge wastes must display:

- The name and local phone number of your company on both doors or both sides of the tank [30 TAC 312.144(a)(1) & (2)].
- The five-digit TCEQ-issued registration number on both doors or both sides of the tank. The registration number must be in block numbers that are at least 2 inches tall, permanently attached, and clearly visible from 50 feet away [30 TAC 312.144(a)(4)(A)].
- A vehicle authorization sticker permanently affixed to the front doors on each side [30 TAC 312.144(a)(3)]. Non-motorized vehicles, such as trailers, do not require vehicle authorization stickers.
- A sight gauge for liquid wastes indicating the amount of waste in the vehicle's holding tank. You may request our prior written approval for the gauge to show the actual volume instead [30 TAC 312.144(d)].
- Discharge valves and ports that are prominently marked, visible, and readily accessible [30 TAC 312.144(f)].

Make sure to keep a copy of your most current NOR in each registered vehicle [30 TAC 312.142(c)].

Wastes

Don’t Mix Incompatible Wastes

Incompatible wastes are those that do not mix easily or cannot generally be treated the same way [30 TAC 312.144(c)]. Grease trap waste and domestic septage are examples of incompatible wastes. Unless the disposal facility has agreed in advance to accept a mixture of incompatible wastes, don’t:

- Transport them in the same vehicle.
- Store them in the same container.
- Use the same equipment to pump them without a thorough emptying and cleaning to remove the previously handled waste.
Store Wastes Properly

You may not store sludge wastes for more than four days in a mobile closed container—for example, in your vehicle's holding tank [30 TAC 312.147(a)]. To store sludge wastes at a fixed or permanent site, you must first get our written permission for temporary storage using form TCEQ-10340. The wastes may not remain in temporary storage for more than 30 days. Store all wastes in a manner that prevents harm to human health and the environment [30 TAC 312.147(b)].

Dispose of Your Wastes Legally

You must deliver waste only to the facilities listed on your NOR [30 TAC 312.142(a)]. Disposal facilities in Texas must not accept your waste if they do not have our written authorization to accept that type of waste [30 TAC 312.143(a)]. The disposal facility has the right to refuse to accept waste from any generator.

Transporting

Satisfy the Full Pump-out Requirement for Grease and Grit Traps

When you pump out a grease trap or grit trap, you must completely empty the trap within 24 hours, even if you need more than one vehicle to do so [30 TAC 312.143(c)].

Transfer Wastes Properly

If you cannot deliver your wastes directly to a disposal or processing facility, then your only option is to transfer the waste to a secondary transporter (30 TAC 312.148). A secondary transporter collects waste from another transporter and hauls the waste to a disposal or processing facility. The transfer of waste to the secondary transporter’s vehicle must occur at a Type V transfer station that is either permitted by or registered with the TCEQ. You must list this transfer station as a disposal facility on your registration and receive an updated NOR before you can use it.

Protect Public Health

Your waste transport vehicles must comply with all relevant health codes. For example, you must operate and maintain the vehicles to ensure that they do not leak [30 TAC 312.144(b)].

Clean Up and Report Your Spills

If a waste spill occurs while you are collecting or transporting sludge wastes, immediately dike and clean up the spill to prevent a threat to human health or the environment (30 TAC 312.146). Contact local law enforcement authorities immediately, and then notify the TCEQ regional office⁶ that serves the county where the spill occurred.

Comply with Local Requirements

Be sure you know and follow local ordinances, regulations, and registration requirements wherever you do business. City officials or the county health department should be able to inform you about any additional requirements [30 TAC 312.145(e)]. If you are operating in Texas counties with bacteria-impaired water bodies,⁷ you must notify the proper authority.

⁶. tceq.texas.gov/goto/regions
⁷. tceq.texas.gov/goto/bacteria
Recordkeeping

The records you keep each time you collect or dispose of waste show your efforts to comply with the rules. Ensure that your records stay up-to-date.

Trip Tickets

Trip tickets (also known as waste manifests) record each collection and disposal of waste, as required by 30 TAC 312.145(a). Some local authorities and disposal facilities may require you to use—and perhaps even buy—trip tickets that they furnish. If they do not supply trip tickets, then you must create your own. The requirements of 30 TAC 312.145 allow for electronic signatures and use of electronic files for waste manifests. If you transport wastes by rail or water, you may keep records by an alternate method if you obtain our approval first [30 TAC 312.145(b)(3)].

For an example of an acceptable blank trip ticket, see “Appendix A.” Trip tickets can have either handwritten or electronic signatures.

A trip ticket has up to five copies, which you will handle as follows [30 TAC 312.145(b)(1)]:

1. Pick up the waste, complete the “Generator” and “Transporter” portions of the trip ticket, and give one copy to the generator.
2. Deliver waste to a disposal facility and have the facility’s representative sign the completed trip ticket. Give the representative a copy.
3. Return a completed copy to the generator within 15 days after the waste is accepted by the disposal facility.
4. Keep one copy for your records. Your copy must be readily available for us to review, regardless of whether it is paper-based or an electronic file.
5. Send a copy to the local authority if required.

You might fill multiple roles regarding the trip tickets. For example, if you lease and maintain chemical toilets, you are both the generator and the transporter. As a result, you could use a route sheet in place of the generator information. Then you could set up your trip tickets to produce only four copies—or even three—if none is needed for a local authority. If you keep just one copy, then you must keep all of your records for all of your roles in the same location.

Treatment of Domestic Septage

You may need to treat domestic septage for delivery to a beneficial-use (also known as land application) site. If so, you must keep records showing how you treat each load to reduce the possibility of transmitting disease [30 TAC 312.144(e)]. The rules require that either you or the site operator treat each load of septage as follows before it is applied to the soil:

1. Mix an alkali into the septage. Usually, the alkali is lime, but the site operator’s permit could specify another alkali. Check with the operator.
2. Wait at least 30 minutes.
3. Measure the pH of the septage. If the pH is below 12, go back to Step 1. If the pH is 12 or higher, stop. The septage may now be applied to the soil.
Here are a few examples of adequate records for each load:

- A set of entries on one line of a notebook you keep on the truck. For example:
  6/7/20, 500 gal. to Jones farm, used approx. 10 lbs. lime, pH (30 min) = 12.2.
- Entries in blanks you add to your trip tickets. For example:
  Amount of lime added: 20 lbs.; pH after 30 min.: 12.1.

If you always treat the septage, add these blanks to the “Transporter” section of your trip tickets. If you take domestic septage to a processing facility for treatment, you do not have to keep records of the treatment.

If you do not understand any part of this process, contact the site operator or our regional office that serves your county.8

**Temporary Storage**

If you store sludge wastes in temporary storage, you must record the following information [30 TAC 312.147(c)]:

- Date, volume, and type of waste deposited into the temporary storage.
- Date, volume, and type of waste removed from the temporary storage.
- Permit or registration number of the facility where the waste was ultimately disposed of after removal from the temporary storage.

**Discrepancies**

As you collect wastes, watch for any discrepancies between the amount or type of waste listed on your trip ticket and the amount or type of waste you dispose of [30 TAC 312.145(c)]. Under the rules, a discrepancy is significant if:

- Inspection or analysis of the waste reveals an obvious difference in waste type—for example, if domestic septage forms two layers of liquid or has the odor of industrial chemicals.
- Measurement of the quantity shows a difference of more than 10% by weight or 15% by volume.

If you discover a significant discrepancy in your records, contact the waste generator, the disposal facility, or both and try to resolve it. If you cannot resolve the discrepancy within 15 days after delivering the waste to the disposal facility, then you must send us a letter that describes the discrepancy and your attempts to resolve it. With your letter, include a copy of all trip tickets containing a discrepancy. The disposal facility should watch for discrepancies, too. If the disposal facility notices a significant discrepancy, they must note it on each copy of the trip ticket.

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8. tceq.texas.gov/goto/regions
Records Retention
Retain the records listed in this “Recordkeeping” section as follows:

- Trip tickets: five years [30 TAC 312.145(b)(2)].
- Treatment of domestic septage: in your vehicle for at least one month after you disposed of the waste, then on file at your office or place of business for five years [30 TAC 312.144(e)].
- Temporary storage: five years [30 TAC 312.147(c)].

Reporting
Registered transporters must file an ASR form, TCEQ-00316, by July 1 each year [30 TAC 312.145(b)(4)]. In this report, you give us a summary of the waste that you transported from June 1 of one year through May 31 of the following year. Each line of the report shows the total amount of one type of waste that you transported to one disposal facility during that reporting period. Use your trip tickets for that reporting period to get the information needed to complete your ASR. For an example of a completed ASR, see “Appendix B.”

This report is due on July 1 every year, regardless of circumstances or the amount of waste you transported. If you did not transport waste but were registered for any part of the reporting period, then you must still file a report that shows that you transported no waste. If you do not file the ASR, then we will not allow you to renew your registration and we will charge you the $500 fee for a late ASR [30 TAC 312.142(i) and 312.9(c) & (e)].

Fees
Every year, you will be charged the annual transporter fee if you have an active registration during any part of the reporting period that begins on June 1 and ends May 31 [30 TAC 312.9(c)]. The amount of waste reported on your ASR determines the amount of your annual transporter fee for that reporting period (see Table 1). Do not send the payment with your ASR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gallons of Waste Hauled</th>
<th>Cubic Yards of Waste Hauled</th>
<th>Total Fee Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–10,000</td>
<td>0–50</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 10,000–50,000</td>
<td>&gt; 50–250</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 50,000–200,000</td>
<td>&gt; 250–1,000</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 200,000</td>
<td>&gt; 1,000</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASR submitted late (after July 1) or no ASR submitted [30 TAC 312.142(i)]</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do not submit payment for your annual transporter fee until you receive an invoice. We mail this invoice in July. If you have not received an invoice by Aug. 15, contact us at 512-239-6413 or wasteval@tceq.texas.gov.

If you do not transport waste during a reporting period and file your ASR by July 1, then your invoice will have the $100 minimum fee. If you do not file your ASR by July 1, then your invoice will have the $500 late fee, even if you transported no waste [30 TAC 312.142(i)]. If you expect the maximum fee, you must still file your ASR by July 1 of that year.

Your payment is due 30 days after the invoice date. If we do not receive your payment by Sept. 1, we will charge late fees [30 TAC 312.9(d)]. You can pay your annual transporter fee online. Vehicle authorization sticker fees cannot be paid online. If you mail your payment, follow the instructions on the invoice. Enclose the payment coupon with your check or money order so our cashiers will be able to credit your account properly.

**Contacting Us for Help**

**Questions About Sludge Transporter Registrations, Receiving Invoices, or Forms**

Contact TCEQ's Industrial and Hazardous Waste/Municipal Solid Waste Registration and Reporting Program at 512-239-6413 or wasteval@tceq.texas.gov.

**Questions About Invoice Payments or Late Fees**

Contact TCEQ’s Revenue Section at 512-239-0369 or revenue@tceq.texas.gov.

**Help with Rules and Completing Applications**

For confidential help with understanding or complying with environmental rules or assistance completing an application, contact TCEQ's Small Business & Local Government Assistance program at 800-447-2827 or TexasEnviroHelp@tceq.texas.gov. Or, find compliance assistance specialists located throughout the state at TexasEnviroHelp.com.

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9. [www3.tceq.texas.gov/epay/]
Appendix A: Example of a Trip Ticket

This example shows what information each trip ticket should contain under 30 TAC 312.145. For waste that is measured in cubic yards, change the word “gallons” to “cubic yards” on the trip ticket. Your trip tickets should produce enough copies for you to distribute them as described in the "Recordkeeping" section of this publication.

**Figure A.1. Example of a trip ticket**

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**Sludge Transporter Trip Ticket**

**Generator Information**

- Generator Name:
- Address:
- Telephone:

This waste was removed from my:

- [ ] Grease Trap
- [ ] Grit Trap
- [ ] Septic Tank
- [ ] Chemical Toilet

OR This waste is:

- [ ] Sewer Sludge/Biosolids
- [ ] Water Treatment Residual

- Maximum capacity of waste tank/trap: __________ gallons
- Quantity removed by transporter: __________ gallons

As the generator’s representative, I certify that this waste contains no hazardous materials, was removed from this address on ___/___/___ at ___ am/pm and is to be transported to a facility authorized to receive these wastes by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

- Name (printed): _____________________________ Signature: _____________________________

**Transporter Information**

- (Name of Transporter's business) _____________________________
- (Transporter's TCEQ registration number) _____________________________
- (Transporter's address) _____________________________
- (Local permit number, if applicable) _____________________________
- (Transporter's telephone number) _____________________________

- Vehicle capacity: __________ gallons
- On ___/___/___, I transported __________ gallons of the waste described above to: _____________________________

- Waste receiver: _____________________________
- Receiver's TCEQ #: _____________________________

- I certify that the information provided above is correct and that this vehicle only contains the waste certified for removal by the generator. I am aware that falsification of this trip ticket may result in revocation of my waste transportation registration, criminal prosecution, and civil penalties.

- Name (printed): _____________________________ Signature: _____________________________

**Receiver Information**

- Facility Name: _____________________________
- TCEQ #: _____________________________
- Address: _____________________________
- Telephone: _____________________________

As the representative of this facility, I certify the following:

- The TCEQ has authorized this business to accept the waste specified under “Generator Information” above.
- The transporter named above delivered __________ gallons of this waste to this business on ___/___/___ at ___ am/pm.
- This waste has been recycled or disposed as required by the TCEQ authorization for this business.

- Name (printed): _____________________________ Signature: _____________________________

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10. tceq.texas.gov/goto/view-30tac
Appendix B: Example of a Completed ASR

In your ASR, report either gallons or cubic yards. Do not convert gallons to cubic yards or vice versa.

Figure B.1. Example of a completed ASR