

The South Korean SAF Feedstock Market

A 2025 Opportunity Brief for Global UCO Suppliers



1. The Mandate: A New, US\$1.5 Billion+ Market is Opening

The Republic of Korea is set to implement a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blend mandate beginning in 2027. This directive will immediately unlock a new, high-value market, projected to exceed US\$150 million in its initial phase and grow into a multi-billion dollar industry. Given South Korea's aviation sector, which will handle over 100 million passengers annually by 2025, the growth potential for certified Used Cooking Oil (UCO) feedstock is immense and imminent.

2. The Demand: Major Refineries are Actively Sourcing Now

Korea's leading energy conglomerates have already commenced SAF production and are aggressively seeking to establish resilient, long-term supply chains. The primary customers for UCO feedstock are:

- **S-OIL**
- **SK Innovation (SK Energy)**
- **HD Hyundai Oilbank**
- **GS Caltex**

These refiners are urgently looking for reliable, long-term partners who can supply large, consistent volumes of ISCC-certified UCO. Their focus is not only on price but on a supplier's ability to navigate Korea's complex import regulations and guarantee stable delivery.

3. The Challenge: Korea's Unique Regulatory Barriers

Unlike other markets, importing UCO into South Korea requires navigating a multi-layered regulatory environment that extends far beyond ISCC certification. This presents a significant barrier to entry for unprepared suppliers.

- **Special Act on Imported Food Safety (Managed by MFDS):** Requires mandatory "Foreign Manufacturer Registration" for the supplier's facility *before* the first shipment can be imported. This is a critical first hurdle.
- **Act on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Wastes (Managed by MOE):** Demands rigorous proof and permitting to classify UCO as a non-hazardous feedstock for recycling, not a controlled "waste" product.
- **Customs Act (Managed by Korea Customs Service):** Involves complex documentation, classification, and clearance procedures that can cause significant delays and costs if not managed by an expert.



4. The Solution: R&K International - Your Gateway to Korea

R&K International (SG) PTE. LTD. is the definitive solution to these challenges. Based in Singapore, we are not mere brokers; we are **Deal Architects** and **Regulatory Solution Providers** dedicated to unlocking the Korean market for elite global suppliers.

Our Core Services:

- **Exclusive Market Access:** We provide direct connections to key decision-makers at Korea's top refineries, facilitating swift and favorable contract negotiations.
- **Total Regulatory Clearance:** We manage the entire Korean import approval process on your behalf—from MFDS and MOE permits to customs clearance—ensuring seamless market entry.
- **Integrated Supply Chain Management:** We handle all logistics, quality assurance, and trade finance, transforming a complex process into a simple, reliable revenue stream for you.

5. Call to Action: The Next Step

The opportunity to enter the Korean SAF market is now, but the window for establishing a primary supplier position is closing. Success requires more than just a product; it requires an expert partner.

Contact R&K International to schedule a confidential briefing on how we can secure your position in this lucrative market.

Open the new horizons with

Rhee & K
International