

Mortuaries

Trade Waste Guideline No. 11

INTRODUCTION

Trade waste discharges from companies conducting mortuary operations contain contaminants which can exceed SA Water's [Standards of Acceptance of Liquid Waste to Sewer](#). Discharges can contain high levels of fleshing, hair and solids. Furthermore, discharge of significant quantities of formaldehyde and disinfectants can be hazardous to sewer maintenance workers.

DEFINITION

For the purpose of this Guideline, 'Mortuary' refers to installations where the examination, preservation and preparation of human corpses are undertaken. They include funeral parlours, morgues, mortuaries and autopsy facilities.

KEY TRADE WASTE QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

PARAMETER	GENERALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL
pH	Between 6-10 units
Formaldehyde	<50 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	<1,500mg/L
Flow rate to sewer	Dependant on capacity of receiving sewer

Note: Discharge limits may be varied under certain circumstances for individual dischargers.

TYPICAL PRETREATMENT

- Autopsy tables have screens fitted at the drainage outlet to collect hair and solids. Collected solids are disposed of via an infectious wastes bin.
- Wash waters and process liquors arising from embalming and washing of body trays are discharged via a 'slops trough' or an 'in floor flushing ring waste trap'. See Figure 1.
- Those waste waters, process solutions and chemicals not permitted to discharge to sewer are stored in approved containers or tanks in accordance with [Trade Waste Blind Tank Guideline No. 3](#).
- All tanks and containers of waste waters, process solutions and chemical solutions are bunded in accordance with [Trade Waste Bunding Guideline No. 4](#).
- Mains water supply to all hot and cold water outlets in body storage and preparation areas are fitted with high level backflow protection in accordance with AS/NZS3500 – 2003 Part 1.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

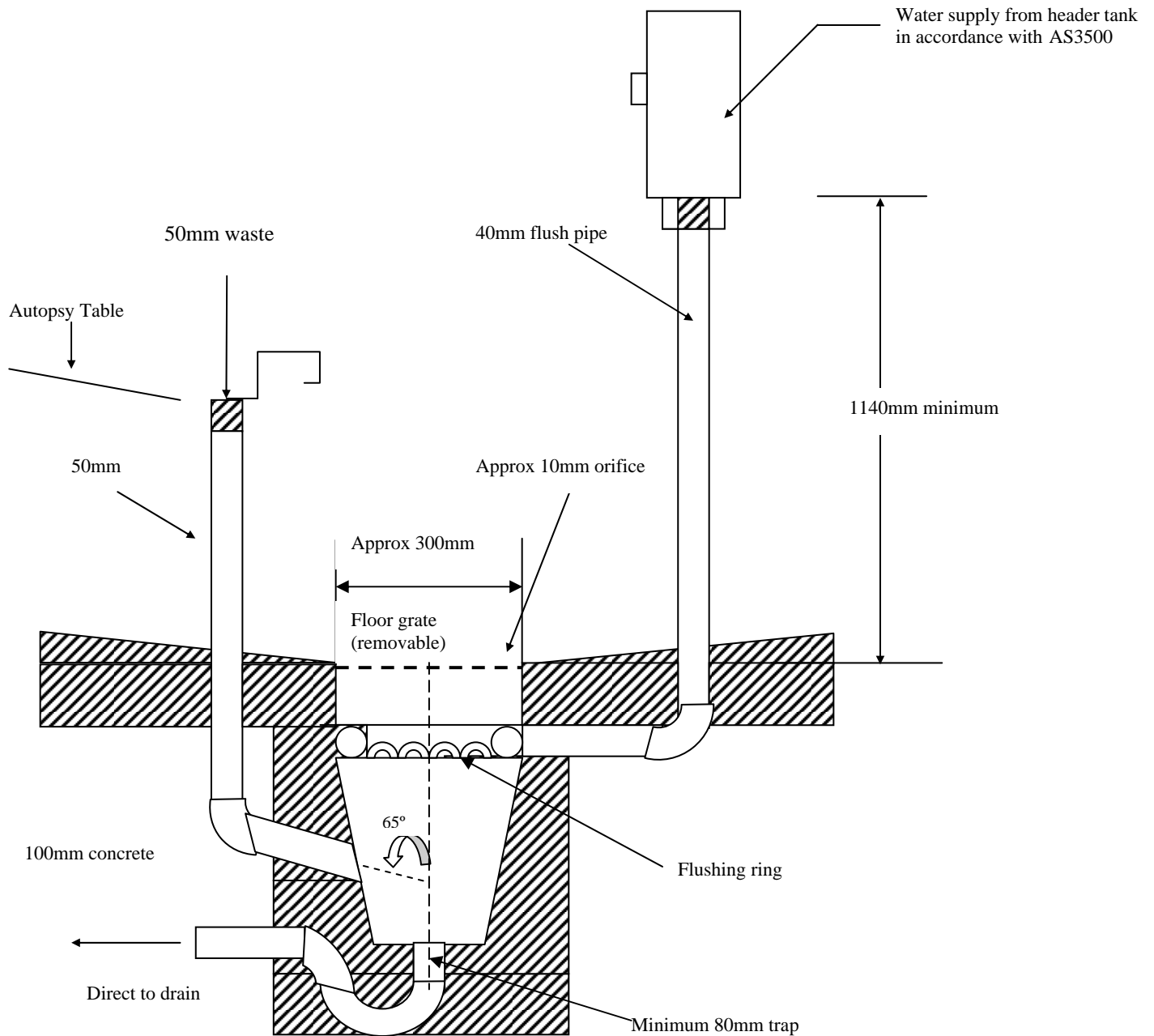
Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS3500 – 2003 Part 1), [Trade Waste General Policy](#),

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Figure 1: Flushing Floor Waste and Autopsy Table



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