

Trade Waste General Policy

INTRODUCTION

The Trade Waste Branch of SA Water is responsible for ensuring that;

- generators of trade waste discharges to SA Water's sewerage system comply with the requirements of the [Sewerage Act 1929](#) and
- all trade waste generators connected to the mains water supply protect it from potential contamination through backflow, in compliance with the [Waterworks Act 1932](#).

This document outlines the system used by the Corporation to regulate, accept and manage the discharge of trade waste into its sewers from customers, along with their safe connection to the mains water supply. It draws on nationally agreed standards and strategies, while supporting a number of State and local objectives. Unless otherwise varied under certain circumstances, all mains water connections to and waste water discharges from generators of trade waste shall comply with the following requirements.

TRADE WASTE ACCEPTANCE

The Corporation's sewer networks and waste water treatment plants are principally designed to collect and treat domestic waste water. Trade waste, by its nature (quality or quantity) typically poses a number of potential risks to the sewerage system. Appropriate trade waste management is therefore necessary to ensure;

- the safety of sewer maintenance personnel
- the safeguard of the sewerage network and treatment process against damage and operational problems
- beneficial reuse of materials from the sewage treatment process, or to minimise their impact on the environment.

TRADE WASTE DISCHARGE PERMIT

- All waste generators wishing to discharge trade waste into the SA Water's Sewerage System require a [Trade Waste Discharge Permit](#).
- Application for a Trade Waste Discharge Permit shall be made via the correct [form](#), obtainable from the Trade Waste Branch, or the SA Water internet site. An [application fee](#) is payable at time of submission.
- It is expected that the proposed activities apply the principles of water conservation and waste minimisation as part of process design and management practices, and where appropriate, use the best available technology economically achievable to ensure these outcomes along with providing protection of SA Water's assets and the environment. A series of trade waste [Guidelines](#) and [Fact Sheets](#) give more specific details.
- Trade Waste Discharge Permits are granted to organisations seeking to discharge trade waste. These "operators" thereby become responsible for compliance with the conditions of their specific Permits. Permit holders are not necessarily the owners of the properties from which they operate.
- Permits are not transferable between operators, even when the business activity remains the same.

Revised October 2011

Further information

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COMPLIANCE AUDITS

- Trade Waste Officers conduct compliance audits of all relevant sites to ensure Trade Waste Discharge Permit requirements are met and to assist operators in all trade waste matters. Compliance [audit fees](#) will apply.
- The frequency of compliance audits is determined by a risk calculation. Sites representing a high risk are audited more frequently than low risk sites.
- Dischargers may be required to perform remedial actions, within prescribed timeframes, should they be found to have breached their Trade Waste Discharge Permit conditions, or adversely affected the sewerage system.
- In extreme circumstances, SA Water may disconnect discharges to prevent further harm to the sewerage system.
- [Fact Sheet No. 10 Trade Waste Compliance](#) provides additional information.

DISCHARGE ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS

- SA Water's [Standards of Acceptance of Liquid Waste to Sewer](#) set the more commonly applied limits for acceptable physical and chemical characteristics of trade waste. Under certain circumstances, these limits are varied or additional limits may apply. For example, lower limits might apply if they can be readily achieved with existing pre-treatment equipment, or the cumulative mass of contaminant from a discharger is a significant proportion of the overall load at the receiving wastewater treatment plant. Where this occurs, such alterations are specified in individual Trade Waste Discharge Permits.
- Dischargers are responsible for meeting these limits at all times. This commonly requires them to carry out on-site pre-treatment of trade waste through appropriate equipment, to achieve acceptable quality, before discharging it to the Corporation's sewer.
- SA Water accepts that for some businesses, meeting these standards is not economically achievable and individual discharges pose minimal risk. In such instances, a discharger will be deemed to have complied if
 - Pre-treatment device(s) specified in their Trade Waste Discharge Permit have been installed and
 - The quantity and nature of trade waste requiring treatment prior to discharge is within the scope of their Trade Waste Discharge Permit and
 - An acceptable management system and maintenance program is in place to ensure pre-treatment equipment effectiveness.
- Liquid and solid wastes not meeting these standards must be contained and removed by a licensed waste contractor, pursuant to the [Environment Protection Act 1993](#), for offsite treatment.
- Where separately treated trade waste streams are combined before sampling points, mass limits or alternative standards of acceptance may be imposed to take into account the dilution factor.

SAMPLING

- SA Water may require certain dischargers to demonstrate discharge compliance, or provide data for calculating trade waste charges, by providing results obtained from laboratory testing of collected samples. SA Water also collects samples from time to time for other purposes.
- Trade waste will be sampled in accordance with the principles set out in AS/NZS 5667 Parts 1 and 10: 1998 and may be grab or composite, depending on whether a "snapshot" or average representation of discharge quality is desired.
- All trade waste samples to be analysed will be collected at the outlet of the trade waste pre-treatment system prior to any "domestic" waste water influx, unless otherwise indicated.
- Trade wastes not affected by pre-treatment processes will be sampled at their source.
- [Trade Waste Guideline No.36 Self Monitoring](#) provides further information.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

- Some trade waste characteristics, such as flow rate/volume, pH, temperature and electrical conductivity are readily measured electronically. SA Water may require some dischargers to electronically monitor trade waste discharge on a continuous basis.
- Where appropriate, connection of electronic monitoring equipment to alarms, waste water discharge shut-off devices, data loggers and telemetric communications may be required.

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SEPARATION OF MATERIALS AND FLOWS

- Trade wastes, process liquors etc. shall not be discharged to the ground, or stormwater drainage system.
- Chemical storage and the site/process layout shall ensure the protection of SA Water's Sewerage systems. Trade Waste [Guideline No.3 Blind Tanks](#) and [Guideline No.4 Bunding](#) provide additional information.

MAINTENANCE OF PRE-TREATMENT

- The discharger of trade wastes to each pre-treatment unit is responsible for its correct operation (including servicing at the minimum intervals specified in the discharge permit) and for compliance with acceptable discharge quality. The pre-treatment unit must be fully operational during times of discharge.
- Production processes must be controlled and equipment maintained such that the capability of the pre-treatment unit(s) is not exceeded.
- The discharger shall ensure correct servicing of pre-treatment units by appropriately qualified technicians and that accumulated material is routinely removed by licensed liquid waste contractors. The discharger shall provide, upon request from the Corporation, appropriate documentation verifying effective maintenance/servicing of the pre-treatment unit. These records are to be retained for a period of two years.
- Remedial actions and alteration to servicing arrangements will be required if pre-treatment equipment is found to be in an unacceptable state during a trade waste compliance audit.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

- Pre-treatment devices, wash down areas, tanks, bunds etc. shall be designed and constructed so that their structural integrity is maintained in normal circumstances.
- The choice of materials used for installations handling and conveying trade waste shall be compatible with its particular chemical and physical characteristics. For example;
 - UPVC sewer pipes are not recommended for conveying waste waters with temperatures exceeding 65°C. Polypropylene and polyethylene pipes are acceptable for discharge temperatures up to 105°C.
 - Metallic sewer pipes shall not be used for conveying waste waters that are corrosive in nature. UPVC, polypropylene, polyethylene and stainless steel pipes are generally acceptable for this purpose.

MODIFICATIONS TO PLANT PROCESSES

- Operators having an existing Trade Waste Discharge Permit must notify the trade waste section in writing of intended variations to approved activities/discharges or new activities/discharges. Where these would necessitate an upgrade of pre-treatment equipment or altered waste management requirements, a new discharge application form must be submitted.
- Trade waste generators will be required to modify production processes or waste pre-treatment systems if
 - SA Water's monitoring indicates unacceptable discharge quality, or
 - it can be established that discharges from a given location have been detrimental to the sewerage system.

RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

- Where it can be established that the blockage of, or damage to, SA Water's sewerage system occurred as a result of discharges from a particular site, the waste generator will be held fully responsible for all expenses incurred by SA Water, in repairing/replacing its damaged assets.

TRADE WASTE CHARGES

- Dischargers of trade waste may be subject to quality/quantity charges. The current charging policy applies charges on the user-pays basis to companies that exceed certain minimum thresholds. Charges are also applied for liquid hauled wastes and other classes of materials. A [schedule of fees](#) and charges is available from SA Water's Trade Waste Branch, or the SA Water internet site.

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METERING OF FLOWS

- For administrative purposes, SA Water's Trade Waste Branch assesses the quantity of trade waste discharged from each site having a trade waste discharge permit. For many customers, a simple calculation based on incoming metered mains water is sufficient.
- Trade Waste dischargers must fit a meter to water sources other than SA Water's mains water supply, if these alternative water sources form part or all of the trade waste discharge. The meter(s) must be of a type acceptable to SA Water and be made accessible for reading by a trade waste officer during normal compliance audits.
- Trade Waste dischargers must measure trade waste discharge, if the Trade Waste Branch reasonably believes that the discharge is greater than 80% of any minimum threshold from which volume and load based charges would apply. Trade Waste Fact Sheet No. 12 [Discharge Flow Meters](#) gives further information.

BACKFLOW PROTECTION

- All new commercial or industrial installations representing a medium or high hazard, as defined in AS/NZS 3500:2003 Part 1 shall include containment backflow protection (i.e. an appropriate device adjacent to each SA Water mains water meter).
- Existing installations approved before 1st July 2006 with medium/high hazards, but without containment protection will be deemed acceptable if
 - The activities on site have remained unchanged since that date and
 - Appropriate zone or individual backflow protection is provided and
 - The customer has an effective management process to prevent cross-connections within the property from compromising the level of protection.
- Customers are responsible for
 - Providing zone and individual backflow protection within their property, if specified in AS/NZS 3500 – 2003 Part 1
 - Installing and maintaining backflow prevention devices in accordance with AS/NZS 3500:2003 Part 1 and AS/NZS 2845 respectively.
 - Arranging for the annual testing of testable devices and forwarding copies of test reports to the Corporation.

RIGHT TO MODIFY REQUIREMENTS

- SA Water reserves the right to
 - modify its policies, [guidelines](#), [fact sheets](#) and [Standards of Acceptance](#) from time to time, or
 - vary the normal acceptance conditions, or impose additional conditions for individual dischargers, where this is warranted

OTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

- The requirements of this policy should be read in conjunction with other statutory policies and regulations that may apply in this area.

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