

Discharge of Air Compressor Condensate Water to Sewer Trade Waste Fact Sheet No. 13

INTRODUCTION

Water condensate is routinely drained from compressed air systems. Condensate water contains around 1 percent of compressor lubricating oil (also known as Coolant) that is lost through the pressurised spaces within the compressor during normal operation. Therefore care is required in its disposal.

Disposal options are;

- Collection and off-site treatment by a licensed liquid waste contractor
- Discharge to sewer providing it meets acceptable quality limits and formal approval has been given in a Trade Waste Discharge Permit to your business. **Spent or excess compressor oil/coolant of any type must never be discharged to sewer.**

TRADITIONAL COMPRESSOR OIL/COOLANT

Traditional compressor lubricating oils can harm the sewage treatment process and environment. For discharge to SA Water's sewerage system, condensate water must therefore be pre-treated to reduce the oil/coolant concentration to below **100 milligrams per litre**. Separation of oils by simple gravity separation methods will not work when the oil is emulsified with water. For this reason, proprietary separation systems have been developed to successfully pre-treat compressor condensate water. They use different technologies to suit a wide range of situations and can reliably achieve acceptable discharge quality.

BIODEGRADABLE COMPRESSOR OIL/COOLANT

An alternative that avoids the need for oil/water separation systems is to use a biodegradable compressor oil/coolant. Condensate water containing traces of products of this type **that have been specifically approved by SA Water** will be accepted to SA Water's sewerage system without prior pre-treatment providing best practice management minimises actual product quantity, namely;

- Compressor systems must be maintained to optimum working order, particularly component fits that are critical for keeping compressor oil/coolant out of the compressed airstream.
- Only the approved product is used in the compressor system. All other oils/coolants (including those with a mineral oil formulation) are not to be used.
- Condensates must be directed to sewer via a gully or tundish.

APPROVED PRODUCTS

The following products have been approved by SA Water;

SSR Ultracoolant
Sullube
CAPS coolant
Kluber Summit Supra Coolant

Kluber Summit DSL-32
Kluber Summit DSL-68
Kluber Summit DSL-100

Compressor condensates containing any other oil/coolant must be pre-treated in the usual way.

Revised May 2011

Further information
(08) 7424 1336
www.sawater.com.au
tradewastebranch@sawater.com.au