Glutaraldehyde and Ortho-Phthalaldehyde disinfectant disposal to sewer

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Glutaraldehyde and **Ortho-Phthalaldehyde (OPA)** are organic substances that are commonly used as safer alternatives to formaldehyde for disinfecting medical equipment. The discharge of these materials to sewer in significant quantity or concentration can have adverse effects, including impact on the biological sewerage treatment process and potential hazards to sewer worker safety.

As with any potentially harmful material, individual dischargers must obtain approval from our Trade Waste team to discharge used water containing Glutaraldehyde or OPA to the sewer, as part of a trade waste discharge authorisation.

While specific conditions may vary for individual permits, the general guidelines are as follows.

Unless specifically authorised, all solutions containing Glutaraldehyde or OPA must be neutralised to inactivate these materials before disposal to the sewer. Alternatively, solutions can be removed by a licensed liquid waste transporter for off-site treatment and disposal, or they must be batch treated in accordance with approved neutralisation protocols.

Dilution with water for the purpose of reducing contaminant concentration to meet acceptance limit is not an acceptable practice.

Solutions containing **Glutaraldehyde** can be neutralised using dibasic ammonium phosphate, glycine or an approved neutralising agent. The final concentration of treated solutions must not exceed **50 mg/L** active Glutaraldehyde.

Approved neutralising agents for Glutaraldehyde are:

- **G.N. Liquid** made by Whiteley Medical. Available from **ch2 – Clifford Hallam Healthcare** phone (08) 8407 0200.

  Formalex made by SASCO. Available from **Blue Sky Scientific** phone 0418 829 643 or (08) 8557 8918.
- **Hyde-Out** made by Quality Medical Innovation P/L. Available from MAJAC Medical Products phone (07) 3265 6355 or 1300 138 578.

Solutions containing **OPA** can be neutralised using glycine powder or an approved neutralising agent. The final concentration of treated solutions must not exceed **200 mg/L** active OPA. OPA solution does not need to be neutralised if it is used in an automated endoscope re-processor as a single use disinfectant, providing the final concentration of OPA in the discharge does not exceed 200mg/L.

Batch discharges of neutralised solutions would be approved in accordance with the *Batch Treatment Guideline*.