DRY CLEANING

Background

As detailed in the Icon Water publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*, activities that generate liquid trade waste for discharge into Icon Water's Sewerage Network ***must*** comply with specific requirements.

Any capitalised terms used and not defined in this guide note has the same meaning as in Icon Water publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*.

Purpose

The purpose of this guide note is to provide detail on the specific requirements for liquid trade waste generated by dry cleaning activities so that compliant waste can be approved for ongoing acceptance into Icon Water's Sewerage Network.

Compliance

The Trade Waste Customer remains responsible and liable for ensuring compliance with this guide note even if the occupier of the premises is another party or entity.

In the event the Trade Waste Customer or the occupier of the premises fails to comply with this guide note, Icon Water may take any and all corrective actions as specified in the Icon Water publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements* and the Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Contract.

Guidance

The requirements detailed in this guide note are only applicable to dry cleaning facilities and activities that generate a wastewater discharge volume of no more than 5,000 L/day.

In all circumstance, dry cleaning areas ***must*** be separated from any areas where laundry activities take place.

Dry cleaning chemicals

Dry cleaning processes use chemical solvents to clean garments. Some of the chemicals that may be used include:

- Perchloroethylene (tetrachloroethylene), commonly called "Perc"
- N-propyl bromide, and other hydrocarbon solvents
- Solvon K4 (formaldehyde dibutyl acetal, also known as "dibutoxymethane")
- "GreenEarth" (siloxane).

Perc is the most commonly used solvent. It is a regulated chemical due to its high risk to both human health and the environment. This solvent may also inhibit sewage treatment processes.

Dry cleaning wastewater

The wastewater from dry cleaning processes, typically has constituents which pose a risk to the Sewerage Network, sewage treatment, humans and the environment. These constituents include:

- Used solvents[1]
- Separator water contaminated by a solvent[2]
- Boiler blowdown water[3]

[1] *Dry-cleaning processes usually include solvent recovery units.*

[2] *If Perc is used, its concentration in the separator water may be as high as 150 mg/L.*

[3] *Please refer to Boiler Blowdown / Condensing Boiler Guide Note for further pre-treatment requirements.*

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

The following substances are prohibited from entering the Sewerage Network:

- Dry cleaning solvents (including Perc)
- Wastewater contaminated with solvents (e.g., separator water) if on-site pre-treatment is not provided.
- Used dry cleaning solvents.
- Wastewater containing chemicals or substances above our acceptance criteria (or not listed) in Icon Water's publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements.*

Excluded substances must be collected by a licensed waste transporter for disposal at an appropriately licensed facility. Icon Water must be advised of the proposed management of this waste.

Pre-treatment requirements

Used dry cleaning solvents are excluded and must not be discharged to the Sewerage Network.

Solvent separator water contaminated with Perc, or other solvents, must be either:

- treated on-site prior to discharge to the Sewerage Network, or
- removed from the premises for off-site management.

On-site pre-treatment of separator water may include a filter (such as an activated carbon filter) which is capable of removing dry cleaning solvent from the wastewater. The residual volume of decontaminated water is relatively small and can be accepted to the Sewerage Network (subject to approval conditions).

Maintenance requirements

The pre-treatment device(s) must be maintained as per the schedules provided during the commissioning of the system.

Other waste management

The following discharge requirements are also applicable:

- Excluded substances must be collected by a licensed waste transporter for disposal at an appropriately licensed facility.
- Invoices/receipts for the waste removal by a licensed contractor (including details of the disposal facility) need to be provided when requested by Icon Water.

Chemical handling and storage

Solvents

The area where Perc (and other solvents) are used, or stored, must not have floor drains connected to Icon Water's Sewerage Network. Any leaks or spills must be contained and removed for off-site management.

All chemicals

Safety data sheets for any chemicals stored in bulk on-site and may be present in the wastewater, must be provided to Icon Water as an attachment with the Icon Water liquid trade waste application form.

Chemicals should be stored in an area where any spillage cannot drain to Icon Water's Sewerage Network or stormwater system. Concentrated chemicals e.g. acids, caustic and other corrosive chemicals must not be discharged to Icon Water's Sewerage Network. Chemical solutions containing small quantities of these substances should be neutralised before discharging to Icon Water's Sewerage Network.

Compliance management

Record keeping

Trade Waste Customers must:

- keep documentation relating to inspection and servicing of all pre-treatment systems at the premises for at least two (2) years and make this documentation available to Icon Water upon request.
- maintain appropriate records to demonstrate compliance with the Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Contract at all times.

Site inspection

Icon Water personnel may attend the premises to conduct site inspections to verify compliance with the Negotiated Customer Contract. The indicative frequency of site inspections is detailed in Section 9.12 of Icon Water's publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements.*

References

- *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*
- *TW-GN-104 Trade Waste Guide Note – Boiler Blowdown / Condensing Boiler*

Issue	Date	Reason for Revision	By
A	10/06/2025	Issued for public consultation	S. Chappell