

NIGHTSOIL / TANKERED WASTE

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 the 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 details on the specific requirements for tankered waste. Icon Water categorises all Nightsoil / Tankered waste as a "Category S" discharge type.

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

Nightsoil is human waste that is collected in a receptacle and is manually removed for disposal to the Sewerage Network via tankering to a nominated discharge point, identified and approved by Icon Water. Nightsoil may comprise of the following:

- Septic tank waste (effluent and septage)
- Ablution block waste (blackwater and greywater)
- Portable/chemical toilet waste
- Sludge from on-site aerated wastewater treatment systems for single households
- Waste from pit toilets (except composting toilets)
- Night soil and pan content

Note: A "pan" is defined as any moveable receptacle kept in a closet and used for the reception of human waste.

The emptying of nightsoil / tankered waste to maintenance holes and sewage pumping stations is prohibited.

Human waste – Additional information

The following table provides additional information for Trade Waste Customers and Icon Water personnel with regards to definitions and also the issues associated with storing, receiving and treating human waste in higher concentrations than those found in typical residential premises.

Item	Human Waste Type	Additional Information
1	Septic tank waste	<p>This may include septic tank effluent and/or septage. The waste is anaerobic in nature and typically contains sulphides.</p> <p><u>Septic tank effluent</u>: Is usually of similar strength to domestic waste but has a higher concentration of sulphides. It is often managed by on-site systems such as soil absorption trenches and evapo-transpiration beds or trenches. Where on-site disposal systems are not provided, the septic tank effluent must be pumped out on a regular basis. The effluent may be treated at the sewage treatment plant.</p> <p><u>Septage</u>: Is the material pumped out during desludging of a septic tank and consists of the partly decomposed sludge, scum and liquid. Septage has a far greater concentration of organic material, solids and grease than septic tank effluent or raw sewage.</p>
2	Ablution waste	<p>Ablution blocks usually have toilets; hence the ablution block wastewater may include both blackwater and wastewater arising from washing hands and body.</p> <p>Ablution blocks are commonly used on large or long-term construction sites. Generally, wastewater is collected in a holding tank. The tank content is pumped out as required, transported to and discharged at an Icon Water liquid trade waste receival facility as per the conditions of the discharger/transporter's approval/contract.</p> <p>Before installing and using a sewage holding tank, an approval for installation, operation and maintenance may need to be obtained from Icon Water.</p> <p>Large volumes of wastewater generated from food preparation activities at festivals, if not treated on-site with appropriate pre-treatment equipment, <u>must not be discharged</u> to the holding tank that holds blackwater and ablution water. Wastewater arising from food preparation activities may need to be either removed from site for off-site management or pre-treated on-site (such as by an appropriately sized grease trap) prior to discharge to the holding tank. If the waste is removed from site, Icon Water must be advised of the disposal location.</p>
3	Blackwater	Is wastewater containing human excrement (e.g. faeces and urine).
4	Greywater	Is wastewater from showers, baths, spas, hand basins, laundry tubs, washing machines, dishwashers and kitchen sinks. It does not include wastewater from toilets, urinals and bidets.
5	Portable toilet waste	<p>Is waste from portable toilets such as those used on smaller or shorter-term construction sites and at outdoor events such as music festivals and shows etc. and in caravans and motor homes. If chemicals are used for removing odour from the waste, it is referred to as "chemical toilet waste".</p> <p>Where formaldehyde based compounds are used in chemical toilets, the concentration of formaldehyde in the sewage entering the sewage treatment works should not exceed a value of 30 mg/L. Such products adversely affect the sewage treatment process and the environment.</p>

Item	Human Waste Type	Additional Information
		<p>Additives most frequently used are Formaldehyde and Gluteraldehyde. It is understood that the use of formaldehyde is slowly being phased out.</p> <p>Portable toilet waste may present a significant problem when large volumes of chemical toilet waste need to be disposed of during special public events (e.g. festivals). Local organisers or the contracted transporter must advise Icon Water of such proposed events well in advance to allow sufficient time to assess a proposal for acceptance of this waste.</p>
6	Aerated wastewater treatment systems for single households	A variety of packaged on-site sewage management plants that produce high quality effluent are available in the market. In general, the treated effluent is suitable for land disposal. If sludge is proposed to be discharged at an Icon Water sewage treatment plant, such waste must be disposed to a sludge lagoon by default if available.
7	Pit toilets	<p>Pit toilets are typically installed at recreation reserve sites, roadsides, national parks and other similar locations where there are no provisions for a water service.</p> <p>Pit toilet types include pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines (VIP latrines, also known as “long-drop toilets”) etc.</p> <p>The waste is of high strength, and odour control and/or insect control chemicals may be used.</p>
8	Nightsoil	Is human excrement collected from buckets, pans, cesspools and privies.

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

The following substances are prohibited from entering the Icon Water Sewerage Network:

- Mixed waste loads, including cross-contamination between loads.
 - As an example, grease trap or oil separator waste and nightsoil waste cannot be mixed/accepted together. That is, dedicated tankers must be used for each type of waste. If this is impractical for a small operation, a road tanker is required to be washed after pumping out grease trap or other waste and disposing of such waste at the appropriate facility. A standard operating procedure must be in place to prevent this mixing with nightsoil tankered waste and a certified copy submitted to Icon Water for approval. Icon Water may take samples of waste loads periodically for testing. The results of these tests may indicate whether grease trap pump-out or trade waste sludge has been discharged with the tankered waste.
- Solid waste (e.g. animal droppings, cat litter, animal food etc.)
- Animal waste disposal units or grinders.
- Wastewater arising from liquefaction and/or pulverisation of solid waste by physical or chemical processes. Examples include but are not limited to: Macerated waste, food waste disposal units and alkaline hydrolysis waste.
- Disposable products including wet wipes, cleaning wipes, colostomy bags, cat litter and other products that do not comply with AS/NZ 5328.
- Wastewater containing chemicals or substances above our acceptance criteria (or not listed) in Icon Water publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*.

Application information

The Trade Waste Customer must submit a liquid trade waste application to Icon Water providing all necessary information. Icon Water has a specific application form pertaining to Nightsoil / tankered waste (please contact us to obtain one). Prior to commencing discharge to the Sewerage Network, Icon Water must approve the application and enter into a Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Contract with the Trade Waste Customer.

Information required for the Application includes, but may not be limited to the following.

- Transport entity/business details
- Valid insurance certificates.
 - Public liability (\$20 million minimum).
 - Workers compensation.
 - Motor vehicle (for all vehicles discharging waste to the Sewerage Network, which includes the Icon Water liquid waste receival facility).
- Declaration affirming all personnel have required licenses and qualification for activities
- ACT Government Waste Transporter Registration
- Details of source of nightsoil / tankered waste
- Potential contaminants within nightsoil, including chemical additives
 - Safety data sheets for any chemicals that may be present in the nightsoil, must be provided.
- Estimated monthly volumes to discharge.
- Delivery vehicle registration number plate and associated waste tank volume
 - The compliance plate or recent weighbridge dockets verifying the full capacity of the waste tank must be provided.
- Safe work method statements and job safety analysis documents must be provided for all tasks undertaken to discharge the nightsoil / tankered waste to the nominated discharge point.
- Names of all personnel who will be discharging the waste to the Sewerage Network at the Icon Water liquid waste receival facility.
 - All personnel discharging the waste at the Icon Water liquid waste receival facility must have the following and provide them to Icon Water:
 - Evidence of successful completion of accredited white card, asbestos awareness, silica exposure courses.
 - AFP police check that is not more than 6 months old.
 - Headshot for identification purposes, not more than two years old.

An applicant can be either a business who transports liquid trade waste (i.e. the “transporter”) or a premises owner/tenant or an event organiser. However, it would be more common that the applicant is a liquid trade waste transporter.

In circumstances where human waste is generated during special large events (such as shows, festivals, etc.) the organisers of such events may apply to Icon Water to obtain a liquid trade waste approval and organise the transportation of nightsoil / tankered waste to the Icon Water liquid trade waste receival facility.

The owner of a property where septic waste or ablution block waste is generated is generally not required to hold a liquid trade waste approval. However, such premises may need to have an on-site sewage management approval under the relevant ACT government legislation.

Discharge requirements

Discharge register

To ensure the integrity of the waste, the discharge of the tanker may be requested to be made in the presence of an Icon Water Trade Waste Officer. The transporter must maintain an up to date and accurate written register ("Discharge Register") of each load discharged to the Sewerage Network, including but not limited to the following:

- The registration number of the transporting vehicle.
- The full name of the vehicle driver.
- The date/times and the premises or sites from which the waste was transported.
- The nature of the load e.g. was it of a domestic household origin or temporary toilets.
- An estimate of the amount of waste from each source.
- The date and time of day of discharge.

Nominated Discharge Point

Tanker discharge requirements

The transporter must not discharge any substance, material or waste into the nominated discharge point of the Sewerage Network, including the Icon Water liquid waste receival facility that:

- Is not one of the tankered waste types accepted by Icon Water.
- Does not have a valid contract (that has been completed and properly executed).
- The Transporter is aware (or should be reasonably aware) may present a risk.
- Is contrary to the direction of Icon Water or any government authority.

Liquid waste receival facility requirements

Before personnel can enter the Icon Water liquid waste receival facility to discharge the nightsoil waste, they must complete the following.

- Submit a current AFP police check to Icon Water for assessment (and refresh it every two years).
- Complete the online General Site Induction module.
- Complete the site-specific induction on site in person with the assigned Icon Water representative (and refresher every two years).
- Receive their own identification and site access card.

The liquid waste receival facility is open for acceptance of nightsoil waste 7 days a week 10:30am to 10.00pm.

The Trade Waste Customer must not permit, authorise or allow any third party, including any subcontractor, to discharge Nightsoil into the Sewerage Network at the liquid waste receival facility without the prior written approval of Icon Water.

From time to time, Icon Water may need to close the facility, including at short notice. Where reasonably practicable, Icon Water will give the Trade Waste Customer prior notice of any direction in writing. In other cases, such as in an emergency, Icon Water may notify the Trade Waste Customer by telephone or in person.

Fees and charges

Icon Water charges a discharge fee for the service of receiving nightsoil / tankered waste into the Sewerage Network.

The discharge fee is based on a volumetric rate. It is charged at \$ per litre and at the full waste tank volume every delivery (no matter how full, or empty, the waste tank is). The fees are invoiced monthly in arrears. Please contact us to find out what our current rates are for this service (email:

trade.waste@iconwater.com.au)

Compliance management

Sampling

Samples may be collected and tested by Icon Water to verify compliance with acceptance requirements and Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Contract.

Record keeping

The Liquid Trade Waste Customer must maintain appropriate records to demonstrate compliance with the Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Contract at all times.

Site inspection

Icon Water personnel may attend the waste transporter premises or the premises of the source of the waste to conduct site inspections to verify compliance with the Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Contract.

References

- *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*

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