

DENTAL SURGERY / DENTAL TECHNICIAN / DENTAL SPECIALIST

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 Sewerage Network **must** comply with specific requirements.

Any capitalised terms used and not defined in this Guide Note have 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 dental surgery, dental technician and dental specialist activities, so that compliant waste can be approved for ongoing acceptance into the Icon Water 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 that 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 following table details facilities and requirements for “Category A” discharges relevant to this Guide Note.

Table 1. Facility types and Category A requirements

Facility Type	Category A Requirements
Dental surgery (including plaster moulds) ¹	i. the discharge volume does not exceed 5 kL/day, and ii. the required pre-treatment equipment is installed in-conjunction with good housekeeping practices, as well as iii. excluded substances are not discharged.
Mobile dental clinic ²	
Dental technician	
Dental specialisation (e.g. orthodontics)	

¹ Any waste generated by fillings and teeth moulds must be treated before being discharged to the sewerage system.

² Mobile dental clinics do not require pre-treatment if no amalgam filling (or teeth moulding) work is carried out, otherwise pre-treatment is required.

Facilities such as dental hospitals and dental facilities attached to teaching institutions have been predetermined by Icon Water to be Category B liquid trade waste dischargers. For details and requirements, refer to the following Icon Water publications:

- *TW-GN-204 Trade Waste Guide Note – Education Facility ~ Tertiary Institution*
- *TW-GN-206 Trade Waste Guide Note – Hospital*

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

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

- Biohazardous, medical and/or infectious waste¹. Examples of wastes are listed below. These wastes must be disposed of in accordance with the Access Canberra (ACT Health) regulations.
 - Hypodermic needles
 - Syringes
 - Instruments
 - Utensils
 - Swabs, dressings and bandages
 - Paper and plastic of a disposable nature
 - Any noticeable portion of human or animal anatomy

¹ Liquid pathological, infectious and cytotoxic wastes are prohibited except as allowed for by AS 3816 Management of clinical and related wastes.

- 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*.

Pre-treatment requirements

Pre-treatment requirements are dependent upon which dental processes are undertaken. No pre-treatment is required if the clinic is not conducting tooth filling, teeth moulds or x-rays (wet process).

Table 1. Pre-treatment devices

Pre-treatment Device	Details
Amalgam separator¹	Must be installed to receive and provide pre-treatment of wastewater from all dental chairs (either per chair or in a centralised point). The amalgam separator (trap). The separator must comply with ISO 11143. Amalgam waste must be collected by a licensed contractor.
Plaster arrestor	Plaster arrestors must be provided under all sinks liable to be used for the discharge of plaster bearing waste and should be cleaned daily. Homemade settling bowls in sinks before plaster arrestors can be useful for retaining plaster but are not sufficient on their own.
Silver recovery unit²	<u>Only for x-ray – wet process</u> Silver recovery units must be installed to receive all silver-bearing wastewater.

¹ Mobile dental clinics (carrying out tooth filling work) must have amalgam separators.

² If a digital process for x-rays is used, a silver recovery unit is not required.

Maintenance requirements

The pre-treatment device(s) must be maintained as per the schedules provided during the commissioning of the system. The maintenance regime must include all aspects as indicated above in Commissioning requirements.

Chemical handling and storage

Safety data sheets for any chemicals stored on site in bulk, and which 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's 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-204 Trade Waste Guide Note – Education Facility ~ Tertiary Institution*
- *TW-GN-206 Trade Waste Guide Note – Hospital*

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