

FUNERAL PARLOUR / MORGUE

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 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 from funeral parlours and morgues, 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 / Activities	Category A Requirements
Funeral parlour / morgue • Cadaver preparation • Dissection of human bodies	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 iv. no more than four Category A discharges from a single premises or complex (excluding those listed and complying with the requirements in Table A.1 of <i>STD-SPE-P-003</i>).

These activities **do not** include such facilities within medical teaching/research institutions, hospitals or forensic medicine centres. Refer to *TW-GN-205 – Education Facility ~ Tertiary Institution* and *TW-GN-207 – Hospital* respectively for further details, as typically such discharges will be Category B discharges.

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

The following are prohibited from discharging to Icon Water's Sewerage Network:

- Formaldehyde. When cadavers are prepared, there is a potential threat of formaldehyde discharge to Icon Water's Sewerage Network which can cause damage to the immediate infrastructure and downstream processes. Icon Water will require the applicant to submit a due diligence program within three months of commencement of the discharge outlining the measures to be taken to prevent the discharge of formaldehyde. Large volumes of formaldehyde need to be neutralised in accordance with the safety data sheet prior to discharge to Icon Water's Sewerage Network
- Alkaline hydrolysis processes. This is a process where a human or animal tissue is broken down using alkaline solution at an elevated temperature and pH. The wastewater generated by this process must not be discharged into Icon Water's Sewerage Network due to its high strength
- Biohazardous, medical and/or infectious wastes¹. 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's publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*.

Pre-treatment requirements

Pre-treatment requirements are dependent upon which processes are undertaken.

Table 2. Pre-treatment devices

Pre-treatment Device	Details
Dry basket arrestor (In-floor)	Must be installed in all floor waste outlets in the areas where cadaver preparation or dissection is carried out, if connected to Icon Water's Sewerage Network. The arrestor needs to be maintained regularly (e.g. removed, scraped and cleaned) to ensure the unit is operating properly.

You must install a backflow device on the Icon Water meter (s) for the property as per requirements of the Environment and Planning Directorate at Access Canberra. You must also install a backflow-prevention device on the inlet of any on-site equipment, appliances and fittings associated with the wash-waters and process liquors arising from embalming process.

A backflow-prevention device must be installed between the water supply and all on-site equipment, appliances and fittings. The backflow device(s) must be tested every 12 months by a licensed plumber who is accredited in backflow prevention to ensure it is operating correctly and to identify if the valve requires servicing/repair. After testing a valve, the Licensed plumber must lodge a test certificate with Access Canberra, the plumbing regulator.

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

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

Site inspection

Icon Water's personnel may attend the premises to conduct site inspections to verify compliance with the Liquid Trade Waste Negotiated Customer Contract. The indicative frequency of site inspections is detailed in Section 9.12 of the Icon Water 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
B	31/10/2025	Issue for use	S. Chappell