

VETERINARY SURGERY

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 from veterinary surgeries, so that compliant waste can be approved for ongoing acceptance into the Icon Water sewerage system/network.

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
Stand-alone veterinary surgeries	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 property or complex (excluding those listed and complying with the requirements in Table A.1 of <i>STD-SPE-P-003</i>).
Veterinary hospitals; with no research-related activities	

Facilities within a zoo, research or quarantine facility are subject to additional and specific requirements. Refer to *TW-GN-301 - Liquid trade waste Category C*.

Note: Veterinary research facilities generally have atypical discharges compared to veterinary surgeries and veterinary hospitals. We will advise specific requirements which will be based on the individual business as well as the *Risk Index Factor (RIF)* as defined in *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*.

Veterinary surgeries – additional activities

Veterinary surgeries may have additional activities that generate liquid waste such as kennel facilities and pet grooming/washing services. In such instances, the veterinary surgery must also comply with the discharge pre-treatment requirements in the relevant Icon Water Trade Waste Guide Note: *TW-GN-103 Trade Waste Guide Note – Animal Shelter ~ Pet Shop ~ Wash Activities*

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

The following substances are prohibited from entering the Icon Water sewerage system/network:

- Organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides. Wash-water containing such substances must not be discharged into the sewerage system. If such products are used, the applicant needs to provide a management plan outlining the storage arrangement and the measures taken to prevent spills, leaks and wastes arising from the use of such products
- Solid waste (e.g. animal droppings, cat litter, etc.)
- Disposable products including wet wipes, cleaning wipes, colostomy bags, cat litter and other products that do not comply with AS/NZ 5328
- 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
- Biohazardous waste and unused pharmaceuticals must be disposed of in accordance with Access Canberra (ACT Health) regulations
- Wastewater containing chemicals or substances above our acceptance criteria (or not listed) in *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*.

Pre-treatment requirements

All pre-treatment devices must be maintained and cleaned as per a set schedule. The following pre-treatment equipment is required to be installed for animal shelter / wash activities where the wastewater is discharged to the Sewerage Network:

Table 2. Pre-treatment devices

Pre-treatment Device	Details
Screens/hair traps (In-sink basket arrestors)	Must be installed in all sinks in animal treatment areas and all floor drains where animals are kept/washed (or in a centralised point) prior to discharge to the Sewerage Network.
Dry basket arrestor (In-floor)	Must be installed in all floor waste outlets in the animal treatment area(s), and where the animals are kept, if connected to the Sewerage Network. The arrestor needs to be maintained regularly (e.g. removed, scraped and cleaned) to ensure the unit is operating properly.
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.
Settling pit¹	<u>For animal furling only</u> Must be installed if animals furl in a sand pit, such as horses in stables and at racecourses. It must be sized according to the influent flowrate and have a minimum capacity to provide one-hour of retention time.

¹The discharger must provide supporting information in regard to sizing of equipment and the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule.

Settling pit

Installation requirements

Location: Installation of the pre-treatment device(s) must allow safe access for maintenance and inspection. They must be installed to meet Australian Standards with respect to, but not limited to, working at heights and confined spaces. The installed location must be accessible by maintenance vehicles to allow safe access to thoroughly clean its interior.

Connection to sewer: Use a disconnecter gully with a riser pipe and inlet fitting and a tundish; a minimum of a 20 mm air gap between the tundish and the outlet from the pre-treatment equipment is required. The gully riser is to be outside the bunded area. If the gully riser is within the bunded area, the top of the gully must be 100 mm above the bund height. The gully riser must be 100mm in diameter.

Sampling: A nominal 25 mm 'full flow' sampling valve shall be provided in the effluent pipe leading to the tundish. The valve shall be located near the separator in a manner such that effluent would pass through the valve (when it is open) rather than discharging to the tundish.

Settling pit: Install the appropriately sized pit to ensure correct working capacity. That is, the pit will need to be larger than the stated working capacity (the pit capacity is to be measured between the inlet wall and weir wall). For correct operation, the pit must be installed level for the wastewater to flow evenly across the weir. The pit should have a flow baffle to slow the flow down and direct it towards the bottom and a second baffle or mechanism to retain floatables. They must be constructed and installed to allow ease of inspection and cleaning. The grates should be easily removed and the pit wide enough so that accumulated solids can be easily removed. The pit must have a high-level alarm switch fitted (audible and visible), with remote alarm signal to an area on the site that is able to be monitored.

Pump: If required, use the correct pump to manage the wastewater generated. It must have a manual start switch with a low-level stop switch.

Vertical clearance: Ensure there is adequate vertical clearance above the pre-treatment system to allow safe inspection, cleaning and replacement of the plate pack(s).

Compliance plate: Check that there is a compliance plate with a compliance number clearly visible on the system. This ensures the equipment is authorised for the full range of conditions and wastewater on site.

Bunding: Ensure the liquid trade waste generating process area and pre-treatment is within a bund. A bund of at least 150 mm high or speed bump hump 75 mm high around the area is required if it is outside to prevent surface stormwater flow. The overall surface water flow across the site has to be considered and the height of the bund/speed bump may have to be increased to prevent stormwater flow.

Roofing: The liquid trade waste generating process area and pre-treatment must be roofed to prevent ingress of rainwater. A ten degree (from the vertical) overhang is the minimum acceptable roof cover to ensure rainwater does not get in.

Backflow-prevention: A cold-water tap must be installed within 5 metres of the device(s). A backflow-prevention device must be installed on the inlet side of the tap. 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.

Reflux valve: Install a reflux valve if the difference in levels between the overflow level of the lowest fixtures and the top of the relief gully is less than 150 mm.

Note: The pre-treatment installation's pipe work and the surrounding area must be arranged to ensure that any spillage or overflow of sludge, separated oil or untreated oily waste is prevented from bypassing the separator and entering the sewerage network.

Commissioning requirements

Each pre-treatment device/system shall be commissioned by a person or company accredited for this purpose by the manufacturer or supplier of the equipment. As part of the commissioning, the following documents shall be provided:

- a certificate of commissioning to be forwarded to Icon Water
- a copy of the work as executed sanitary drainage plan showing the completed installation of pre-treatment devices/system, and
- a schedule of recommended cleaning and maintenance to be given to the owner and kept at the premises for reference and available for inspection by Icon Water on request. The schedule shall provide:
 - a description of activities to be undertaken (e.g. for coalescing plate separators the removal and cleaning of plates, sludge withdrawal from hopper, etc.)
 - minimum frequencies for these activities, and
 - any special observations to be made which would affect the frequency of this maintenance schedule or which may indicate conditions when qualified service personnel may need to be engaged.

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 disinfectants, pesticides and 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 the Sewerage Network or stormwater system. Concentrated chemicals e.g. acids, caustic and other corrosive chemicals must not be discharged to the Sewerage Network. Chemical solutions containing small quantities of these substances should be neutralised before discharging to the Sewerage Network.

Housekeeping practices

Areas where animals are kept must be dry-swept before hosing down the floors.

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

References

- *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*
- *TW-GN-103 Trade Waste Guide Note – Animal Shelter ~ Pet Shop ~ Wash Activities*
- *TW-GN-301 Trade Waste Guide Note – Liquid trade waste Category C – High Risk*

Issue	Date	Reason for Revision	By
A	03/06/2025	Issue for public consultation	S. Chappell
B	31/10/2025	Issue for use	S. Chappell