

HOSPITAL

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 hospitals, 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 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

Hospitals are predetermined by Icon Water to be "Category B" liquid trade waste dischargers, as detailed in the table below.

Table 1. Activities and requirements

Facility Type / Activities	Trade Waste Guide Note	Maximum Allowable Daily Discharge Volume
Hot Food / Cooking	<i>TW-GN-101</i> or <i>TW-GN-102</i>	No Limit ¹
Boilers/ Boiler Blowdown	<i>TW-GN-104</i>	
Cooling towers	<i>TW-GN-105</i>	
Mortuary	<i>TW-GN-110</i>	
Pathology laboratory	<i>TW-GN-112</i>	
Laundry	<i>TW-GN-113</i>	
Hydrotherapy pool	<i>TW-GN-117</i>	

Facility Type / Activities	Trade Waste Guide Note	Maximum Allowable Daily Discharge Volume
Other	<i>Refer to the relevant trade waste guide note or contact Icon Water for advice.</i>	

¹By default, no discharge limits apply to hospitals unless the receiving sewer or receiving treatment plant are capacity-limited. In such instances, Icon Water will determine such limits on a case-by-case basis. Similarly, the maximum instantaneous flowrate permitted by Icon Water will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

These activities **do not** include the following facilities/activities, which are pre-categorised as Category C dischargers:

- A specific, unique or atypical process/activity is to be undertaken on site, or
- Discharge from a solid waste processing unit is proposed, or
- PC2 and PC3 laboratories are proposed for the site, or
- Iodine 131 ablative therapies/nuclear medicine facilities are proposed for the site.

If any of the above-mentioned processes/therapies are approved by Icon Water, they will be done so on the condition that the hospital is to be a Category C (i.e. 'high risk') discharger and additional requirements will be applied (on a case-by-case basis as determined by Icon Water) to those detailed within this Guide Note.

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

In addition to those listed in the relevant/referenced trade waste Guide Notes, the following wastes are prohibited from being discharged to Icon Water's Sewerage Network:

- Wastewater from devices that macerate and/or pulverise the waste (e.g. bedpan macerators)
- Disposable waste products (including wet wipes, colostomy bags and other products) marketed as being "flushable")
- Wastewater from alkaline hydrolysis processes
- Infectious waste (which has not been sterilised)
- Biohazardous waste
- Excess/expired medication
- Wastewater from solid food waste digesters/composters
- Solid waste.

Additional notes apply as follows:

1. Biohazardous waste and medication must be disposed of in accordance with ACT Health regulations and not to the sewerage system/network.
2. Solid waste such as human tissue, hypodermic needles, syringes, instruments, utensils, swabs, dressings, bandages, paper and plastic items of a disposable nature etc. must not be discharged to Icon Water's Sewerage Network. Such waste products must be disposed of in accordance with ACT Health regulations.
3. Discharge from solid food waste processing units (e.g.: digesters/composters etc.) to Icon Water's Sewerage Network is determined by Icon Water to be a Category C (aka 'high risk') discharge. Requirements in addition to those detailed in this Guide Note will be applied by Icon Water on a case-by-case basis and approval may not be given in some circumstances.

Pre-treatment requirements

In addition to those listed in the relevant/referenced trade waste Guide Notes, the following pre-treatment equipment must be installed. Infectious wastes must be sterilised before being discharged to the Sewerage Network.

Table 2. Pre-treatment devices

Pre-treatment Device	Details
Cooling pit^{1,2}	If applicable for waste at a temperature greater than 38°C. For example, if instruments and/or equipment are sterilised using heat, the temperature of wastewater must be reduced before discharge.
Balancing pit (or method of neutralisation)	If sterilising solutions are used. Neutralisation must be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions/recommendations (i.e. as per the safety data sheet) prior to disposal.

¹In order to avoid an excessive number of pre-treatment units, some liquid waste streams may be combined and treated at a centralised treatment unit. For example, the wastewater from a steriliser may pass through a dilution/balancing pit provided for laboratory waste if practical.

²The volume of wastewater from a steriliser is an important factor to consider when deciding whether a cooling pit/tank is required, as the temperature of waste will be reduced after mixing with a large volume of other waste in a hospital environment. Such wastewater must not be discharged into a grease trap due to the potential for interference/detrimental effects on the pre-treatment.

Renal units - Additional requirements

Renal units provide haemodialysis for patients with renal failure. The equipment is required to be disinfected using various chemicals and/or heat pasteurisation as per the manufacturer's specification. The water used in haemodialysis (dialysate) needs to be treated by reverse osmosis (RO). Periodic backwashing of the RO system is required to clean the RO membranes. The backwash and any other wastewater associated with the disinfection of equipment is discharged to the Sewerage Network.

Pre-treatment requirements are as per those previously detailed within this Guide Note and others referenced.

All other requirements

Refer to the relevant Guide Notes for specific details for each of the following criteria.

- Excluded substances/equipment/processes
- Pre-treatment requirements
- Chemical handling and storage
- Housekeeping
- Compliance management.

References

- STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements
- TW-GN-102 Trade Waste Guide Note – Retail Food Preparation - Hot Food ~ Cooking
- TW-GN-104 Trade Waste Guide Note – Boiler Blowdown ~ Condensing Boiler
- TW-GN-105 Trade Waste Guide Note – Cooling Towers
- TW-GN-107 Trade Waste Guide Note – Dental Surgery ~ Dental Technician ~ Dental Specialist
- TW-GN-110 Trade Waste Guide Note – Funeral Parlour ~ Morgue

- *TW-GN-112 Trade Waste Guide Note - Laboratory*
- *TW-GN-113 Trade Waste Guide Note – Laundry ~ Laundromat*
- *TW-GN-115 Trade Waste Guide Note – Medical Centre ~ Doctor Surgery ~ Physiotherapy (Plaster-of-Paris Casts, Laboratory)*
- *TW-GN-117 Trade Waste Guide Note – Swimming Pool ~ Spa ~ Hydrotherapy*

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