

MECHANICAL WORKSHOPS / LAWNMOWER REPAIRS

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 mechanical workshops, 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
Stand-alone mechanical workshop	(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>).
Service-station workshop only with no forecourt discharge	
Lawnmower workshop that conducts mechanical repairs without any other processes/work conducted on site	
Motorboat workshop that conducts mechanical repairs without any other processes/work conducted on site	
Mobile van used for carrying out mechanical repairs outside a workshop	

Mechanical workshops with no wastewater to the Sewerage Network

Some mechanical workshops degrease and wash parts in a parts washer and collect wastewater for off-site disposal so that there is no liquid waste discharge to Icon Water's Sewerage Network.

Mobile mechanical workshops may undertake tasks at client premises or a roadside service that do not result in liquid waste discharge to Icon Water's Sewerage Network (e.g. car repairs/servicing, parts replacement, oil change, brake fluid change etc.).

In both cases, no liquid trade waste approval is required, if the following criteria are met at the fixed workshop (or base facility for mobile mechanics):

- (i) no floor drains/floor waste outlets are connected to Icon Water's Sewerage Network, and
- (ii) sinks in the workshop/facility are used for hand-washing only. There must be no parts rinsing after degreasing in such a sink, and
- (iii) invoices/receipts for the waste removal by a licensed contractor (including details of the disposal facility) must be provided when requested by Icon Water.

This Guide Note **does not** apply to:

- A mechanical workshop located at an existing service-station that discharges liquid waste from a covered forecourt or a refuelling bay to the Icon Water Sewerage Network. Refer to Icon Water publication *TW-GN-205 Trade Waste Guide Note – Service-Station Forecourt ~ Refuelling Point (Existing)*
- Mechanical workshops associated with industry or manufacturing facilities such as a workshop at an airport, bulk fuel depot, train depot, engine reconditioning facility, radiator repairer and panel-beater. Liquid trade waste applications for these discharges may be assessed by Icon Water using the 'RIF method' detailed in the Icon Water publication *STD-SPE-P-003 Trade Waste Approval and Compliance Requirements*.

Excluded substances/equipment/processes

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

- Liquid waste from a spray-painting area (e.g. a paint booth)
- Parts washers are prohibited from being connected to the Icon Water Sewerage Network
- Degreasers
- Radiator coolants (e.g. ethylene glycol)
- Hydraulic fluids (e.g. brake fluids and transmission fluids)
- Petrol, diesel, discrete oil, kerosene, solvents and other flammable and/or explosive substances, spent chemicals
- Rainwater/stormwater and groundwater
- 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*.

The above-mentioned substances must be collected and removed for off-site management prior to engine-dismantling activities being undertaken.

Pre-treatment requirements

The following table describes pre-treatment requirements for all facilities/business activities covered by this Guide Note, including mobile mechanical workshops that discharge liquid waste to the Icon Water Sewerage Network.

Table 2. Pre-treatment devices

Pre-treatment Device	Details
Screens	Must be fitted to all floor drains.

Pre-treatment Device	Details
Dry basket arrestor	Must be installed for any floor waste outlet. The arrestor needs to be maintained regularly (e.g. removed, scraped and cleaned) to ensure the unit is operating properly.
Collection well/pit²	Must be installed to receive all drainage from processes that generate oily wastes or wastewater bearing other petroleum hydrocarbons. Must have a minimum capacity of 300 L. Must be maintained and cleaned regularly to remove the build-up of gross solids. Gross solids must not be discharged to the Icon Water Sewerage Network.
Coalescing plate interceptor/separator, hydrocyclone separation system or a vertical gravity separator¹	Must be installed to receive all drainage from processes that generate oily wastes or wastewater bearing other petroleum hydrocarbons. Must be sized according to the influent flowrate and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The minimum size accepted is 1000 L/hr capacity. A non-emulsifying feed pump shall be used. All associated pipe work shall be sized to match the pump capacity. The pump type and speed shall be permanently marked on the pump. A nominal 25mm 'full flow' sampling valve shall be provided in the effluent pipe leading to the tundish. The following information shall be permanently marked on the device: • model designation • supplier name • address and phone number • the maximum instantaneous flow capacity (this should equal or exceed the pump flow rate). Note: Detailed installation/commissioning/maintenance requirements are included after this table.
Bunds	Must be installed around the liquid trade waste process and pre-treatment area. 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.

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

²Note: Double and triple interceptor pits and general-purpose pits are not deemed by Icon Water to be appropriate pre-treatment equipment for the wastewater generated by mechanical workshops and the like.

Coalescing plate interceptor/separator, hydrocyclone separation system or a vertical gravity separator

Installation requirements

Location: Installation of the system must allow safe access for maintenance and inspection. The system must be installed to meet Australian Standards with respect to, but not limited to, working at heights and confined spaces. It must also be installed in a location that is 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 100 mm in diameter.

Sampling: A nominal 25 mm 'full flow' sampling ball-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.

Collection well/pit: Install a 300 L working capacity collection pit. Note, to attain 300 L working capacity, you must install a pit larger than 300 L. It 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.

Pump: Use the correct pump to manage the wastewater generated. The pump shall be a non-emulsifying feed pump.

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 separator. 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.

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 system 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*.

Other waste management

In addition to the installation, operation and maintenance of pre-treatment devices, the following discharge requirements are also applicable:

- If parts are washed in a part washer, the solution must be disposed of at an appropriate facility
- Any spent oil, degreasers, hydraulic fluids and radiator fluid etc. must be collected and securely stored in appropriate containers for recycling or disposal at an appropriate treatment facility
- Invoices/receipts for the waste removal by a licensed contractor (including details of the disposal facility) need to be provided when requested by Icon Water
- It is preferable to use dry processes where possible. Small parts should be washed in a solvent-recycling parts washer located within an area with no drainage to the sewer. However, if the wastewater is proposed to be discharged to the Icon Water Sewerage Network, then the wash area must be sealed, bunded and roofed.

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.

Housekeeping

The following general housekeeping practices must be complied with:

- A mineral-oil separator is more efficient if detergents are not used (e.g. cleaning is completed using high water pressure). If the use of detergents cannot be avoided, only quick-break detergents must be used. These detergents allow oil/water emulsion to break quickly (say, within 20–30 minutes) and assist the separation process
- Oil spills must be dry cleaned prior to wash-down
- Grease blobs must be scraped up before wash-down
- Screens must be used to exclude bolts, nuts, washers and the like from the pump intake
- Cleaning compounds must be compatible with the pre-treatment system
- Oils, solvents, hydraulic fluids, chemicals and empty containers must be stored in a separate bunded area that cannot drain to the Icon Water Sewerage Network or the stormwater network.

Note:

- Draining of radiator coolant is not permitted to the Icon Water Sewerage Network. A large quantity of ethylene glycol has the potential to adversely affect the operation of the sewerage system and therefore must not be discharged. Furthermore, a large quantity of ethylene glycol will increase the emulsification of oils and greases and thereby reduce the efficiency of any hydrocyclone separation system, vertical gravity separator or coalescing plate interceptor/separator system. All radiator coolant must be collected and securely stored for recycling or disposal to an appropriate treatment facility

- Use and disposal of solvents (not permitted to the Icon Water Sewerage Network): Solvents are often used for cleaning parts. Spent solvents must be collected and taken off-site for recovery or disposal and not discharged to the sewerage system. Measures must be taken to ensure that the area used for parts washing does not drain to the Sewerage Network or pre-treatment equipment. However, the final rinse water may be discharged to the Sewerage Network via the pre-treatment equipment, provided that excess solvent is removed by draining and parts are dried before rinsing.

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-GN201 Trade Waste Guide Note – Auto dismantler ~ Engine Reconditioning*
- *TW-GN-205 Trade Waste Guide Note – Service-Station Forecourt ~ Refuelling Point (Existing)*

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