

Acceptance guideline 14: Doctors surgery and medical centre

Overview

The purpose of this acceptance guideline is to outline under what circumstances Icon Water will permit the discharge of liquid waste into the sewerage network.

Under section 127(1) of the Utilities Act 2000, it is an offence to discharge into the water or sewerage network any substance that is likely to interfere with the network, or form compounds that would be likely to interfere, unless the consent of the utility is obtained. Significant fines, imprisonment or both may result from an offence. Discharges entering a sewer that are in breach of the conditions set out in this note will probably constitute a breach of section 127(1) of the Utilities Act 2000 and may lead to prosecution of the person discharging the waste, or allowing the waste to be discharged.

This guideline contains specific information on waste types and discharge requirements. The requirements of this guideline are in addition to the requirements specified in Trade waste acceptance guideline 1: general acceptance criteria for liquid waste..

Types of premises

Description of activity

A doctor's surgery is limited to a stand-alone doctor's practice or located within a medical centre with 4 or less dischargers. It may involve the application of plaster casts but does not conduct X-ray procedures.

The activity does not include doctor's premises located within a medical complex, if more than four (4) trade waste streams are generated from such a complex, a hospital or teaching facility. In this case, a medium/high risk application must be submitted.

Other issues

Disposal of solid waste

Solid wastes such as hypodermic needles, syringes, instruments, utensils, swabs, dressings, bandages, paper and plastic items of a disposable nature, or human tissues must not be discharged to the sewerage system. Such wastes are to be disposed of in accordance with the ACT Health Waste Management Guidelines which advise on the safe handling, storage and disposal of clinical, cytotoxic, pharmaceutical and chemical wastes.

Pre-treatment requirements

Plaster traps must be provided under all sinks used for the discharge of plaster bearing waste. Plaster traps should be cleaned daily. Homemade settling bowls in sinks before plaster traps can be useful for retaining plaster, but are not sufficient on their own.

Further information

Additional information about the discharge of liquid waste into Icon Water's sewerage network is available at iconwater.com.au/tradewaste or by contacting us on **02 6248 3111** or via email on talktous@iconwater.com.au