

Acceptance guideline 9: Dentistry

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 35 of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*, 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 an Icon Water sewer that are in breach of the conditions set out in this guideline will probably constitute a breach of section 35 of the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* 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

These activities include:

- dental surgery including X-ray and/or plaster moulds
- dental technician, and
- dental specialist (e.g. orthodontics).

They do not include dentists in dental hospitals and dental facilities attached to teaching institutions, located within a medical centre, as other liquid trade waste generating processes are typically associated with these premises deem it in a different classification of discharger.

These include the making of fillings and teeth moulds and the processing of X-rays. The liquid trade wastes generated by these processes must be treated before being discharged to the sewerage system.

Pre-treatment requirements

Pre-treatment requirements are dependent on the process undertaken:

- Fillings – an amalgam separator is required, either built into the cuspidor by the manufacturer or separately provided. Amalgam waste must be collected by a licenced contractor.
- Teeth mould preparation – the liquid trade waste must pass through a plaster arrestor before being discharged into the sewerage system.

X-ray processing – all silver-bearing waste must be treated in a silver recovery unit and the concentration of silver in the effluent from it must not exceed 2 mg/L. If a digital process only is used for the x-rays, a silver recovery unit is not required.

If the applicant decides not to install the required pre-treatment equipment, then the untreated wastewater must be removed from the premises and be managed in accordance with ACT EPA requirements.

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 Department of Health Waste Management Guidelines which advise on the safe handling, storage and disposal of clinical, cytotoxic, pharmaceutical and chemical wastes.

Compliance audit

The customer must keep documentation relating to inspection and servicing of the amalgam removal equipment and to the pickup or dispatch of amalgam traps/canisters, chrome and X-ray waste (as applicable) at the premises for at least two (2) years and make this documentation available to Icon Water upon request.

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