

Southern Water – Regulatory Position Statement

Draining and Flushing of Potable Water, Central Heating, Chilled Water and Sprinkler Systems at Non-Household premises (and other similar operations)

Background

Trade Effluent discharges require a 'Consent to Discharge' from the appointed sewerage undertaker under the Water Industry Act (WIA) 1991.

However, there are certain Trade Effluent (non-domestic) discharges which Southern Water considers are more appropriately and efficiently controlled outside of the formal consenting process.

It is common practice for companies to periodically flush and drain down potable water, heating, sprinkler, and chilled water systems and seek to dispose of this used water to the public foul sewer as trade effluent. Southern Water considers this effluent, if carried out following the conditions below, a low-risk activity which can be controlled without the need of a formal consent.

Our Approach

It is the responsibility of the company / organisation carrying out the discharge activity to ensure that the **discharge conditions** below are complied with at all times. In addition, all relevant legislative requirements pursuant to the WIA 1991 Act must be adhered to.

If in any doubt about the information contained in this statement and its applicability to the proposed discharge, the company / organisation shall contact their Retailer and ascertain whether a Trade Effluent Consent is required, prior to commencing any discharge to the public foul sewer.

This approach is subject to the following **discharge conditions** being met:

1. Trade Effluent

The Trade Effluent shall consist only of wastewater from the following:

Draining and Flushing of Potable Water, Central Heating, Chilled Water and Sprinkler Systems at a Non-Household premises.

2. Sewer Affected

The Trade Effluent shall discharge into the public **foul** sewer. The discharge must not be made to the surface water system as this drains directly to the environment.

3. Maximum Rate of Discharge

The maximum rate at which The Trade Effluent may be discharged shall not exceed **1 litre/sec**. The flow is such that it does not surcharge local sewers and cause flooding.

4. Maximum Rate of Discharge

The maximum quantity of The Trade Effluent discharged at any period of twenty-four hours shall not exceed 30 m³.

5. Limits on Effluent Composition

The following Trade Effluent Constituents shall not exceed the stated concentration:

- i. The discharge must not contain glycol above 0.5%v/v.
- ii. Any chlorinated water should be de-chlorinated to normal potable water levels.
- iii. The effluent must not contain materials that may be retained by a screen having perforations of 6 mm in diameter.
- iv. The pH of the effluent must not be less than pH 6 or greater than pH 10.
- v. The effluent must not contain any substances that are toxic, flammable, or harmful to biological treatment.

Additionally, Section 111 of the 1991 Act makes it an offence to discharge anything to the public sewer, which is likely to adversely impact on such sewer, the free flow of its content, the water recycling centre and any treatment processes, the health and safety of the public and our personnel and the environment.

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a Trade Effluent Consent, Southern Water expects full compliance with relevant legislative requirements and will use its enforcement powers where necessary to ensure that those who fail to comply are held to account. Where a criminal offence has been committed Southern Water will consider a number of enforcement options including issuing a warning, administering a caution and prosecution. Southern Water reserves the right to recover any cost incurred following a breach of the conditions set in this document and/or any damage to our assets or the environment.

What we expect from you

If you are in any doubt about the information contained in this document and its applicability to your discharge or if you have any further queries you must talk to your Retailer. If you wish to discharge outside of this agreement, please contact your retailer to apply for a temporary Trade Effluent consent.