

Regulatory position statement - flushing of heating/cooling systems, potable water pipework and sprinkler systems at non-household premises

TEP010 - Last updated in July 2021

Scope of Regulatory Position Statement

Heating/cooling systems, potable water mains and sprinkler systems may require flushing as part of their commissioning and regular maintenance. This generates non-domestic wastewater (Trade Effluent), which the contractor providing this service may seek to dispose of by discharging to the public foul sewer.

Under the Water Industry Act 1991 (the "1991 Act"), companies seeking to discharge Trade Effluent in the area of a Sewerage Undertaker (eg, Wessex Water) may do so only with the undertaker's consent.

The scope of this Regulatory Position Statement is to provide a temporary consent to discharge in place of a Trade Effluent Consent under the 1991 Act to authorise such temporary, intermittent, short-term discharges of wastewater derived from flushing of heating/cooling systems, potable water mains and sprinkler systems (the "Low Risk Discharge(s)"). Subject to the acceptance of the Conditions of Discharge set out below and this statement, application for a Trade Effluent Consent from Wessex Water will not be required for such Low Risk Discharge(s).

It is the responsibility of the contractor/relevant entity carrying out/ permitting the carrying out of the flushing of such Low Risk Discharge(s), to ensure that the below Conditions of Discharge and this statement are complied with at all times, in addition to all relevant legislative requirements pursuant to the 1991 Act. If in any doubt about the information contained in this statement and its applicability to the proposed discharge, the contractor/relevant entity shall contact their Retailer and ascertain whether a Trade Effluent Consent is required, prior to commencing any discharge to the public foul sewer.

Conditions of Discharge

1. Type of discharge

The type of discharge shall fall within the category of Low Risk Discharge(s).

2. Location of the discharge

The effluent must be discharged to the public foul sewer. The discharge must not be made to the surface water system as this drains directly to the environment.

3. Volume and Flow Rate

The maximum quantity of effluent discharged into the public sewer in any one period of 24 hours must not exceed 15 cubic metres (m³/day).

The rate of discharge must not exceed 1 litre per second (l/s) at any time.

4. Dates and Time

The discharge shall be for a continuous period not exceeding ten days, intermittently between 08:00 and 17:00, Monday to Friday.

5. Quality of the discharge

- a The discharge must not contain any glycol compounds above trace quantities.
- b Free Chlorine must not exceed 20 milligrams per litre (mg/l) of effluent.
- c The effluent must not contain materials that may be retained by a screen having perforations of 6 mm in diameter.
- d The pH of the effluent must not be less than pH 6 or greater than pH 10.
- e The effluent must not contain any substances that are toxic, flammable or harmful to biological treatment.

6. Acceptance of these Conditions of Discharge

- a You are proceeding with the discharge on the basis that your discharge(s) will be confirmation and amount to your continuing acceptance of these Conditions of Discharge and this Regulatory Position Statement which shall remain in full force and effect.
- b For the avoidance of doubt, no failure or delay by Wessex Water to exercise any right, remedy or enforcement under this Regulatory Position Statement or by law shall constitute a waiver of that or any other right, remedy, enforcement nor shall it prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right, remedy or enforcement. No single or partial exercise of such right, remedy or enforcement shall prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right, remedy or enforcement.

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 the environment.

Process Chemicals

All chemical must be kept in a securely locked and bunded area and used as per the supplier's instructions.

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a Trade Effluent Consent, Wessex 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 Wessex Water will consider a number of enforcement options including issuing a warning, administering a caution and prosecution. Wessex Water reserves the right to recover any cost incurred following a breach.