

## Environment Information Sheet 6 Trade Waste Management

**It is illegal to discharge any liquid that contains  
a trade waste to stormwater**

### What is Trade Waste?

*Trade Waste* is any waste generated in the course of commercial and industrial activities on the airport. *Trade Waste liquid* means any liquid, including water that contains a trade waste substance. It does not include domestic wastewater from residential premises or wastewater generated by persons using domestic fixtures within a workplace.

Trade waste and trade waste water are pollutants. Disposing or permitting these products to discharge to stormwater is prohibited.



### What type of Trade Waste occurs at Sydney Metro Airports?

Examples of some of the Trade Wastes generated at airports include;

#### *Petroleum Hydrocarbons*

Found in diesel, petrol, solvents, liquefied petroleum gas, engine oil, grease and degreasers. These can release flammable gases in the sewers therefore discharging these substances to sewer is strictly prohibited.

#### *Metals (lead, zinc, copper, iron, chromium, nickel and aluminium)*

Found in leaded petrol, radiators, engine parts, batteries and the residue from chemically cleaning engine blocks. These are all contaminants which the sewerage treatment processes can't treat therefore their release to sewer is strictly controlled.

#### *Chlorinated solvents and phenols*

Found in de-carbonising solutions and degreasers. These products which can't be processed within the sewerage treatment processes pose a significant health risk.

### *Surfactants*

Found in detergents and other cleaning products, including biodegradable products. These products in uncontrolled quantities interfere with sewerage treatment processes and therefore are strictly controlled.

A liquid, including water, containing any of these products is a Trade Wastewater and must be disposed appropriately either via sewer or a licensed waste contractor. *None of these products may be allowed to enter stormwater.*

### **The law and what this means for you at a Sydney Metropolitan Airport**

All discharges to sewer are controlled by Sydney Water. Under Section 49 of the Sydney Water Act 1994, it is an offence to discharge any substance into a work owned by Sydney Water without the written agreement of Sydney Water. Monitoring must be carried out as outlined in the agreement.

### **What is a Trade Waste Permit and who needs a one?**

A Trade Waste permit is an agreement between a business that wishes to dispose of its trade waste liquids to sewer and Sydney Water.

A Trade Waste permit will normally specify;

- The type and quantity of trade waste liquid that may be disposed to sewer.
- The type and level of treatment the trade waste liquid must undergo before discharge to the sewer is permitted.
- The type and frequency of maintenance of any trade waste treatment facility required.
- The type and frequency of monitoring of the trade waste being disposed to sewer.

*Any business that produces a Trade Waste liquid that it wishes to dispose to sewer must have a Sydney Water permit authorising the discharge of that liquid to sewer.*

## Why pre-treat trade waste liquids?

Sydney Water operated sewerage treatment plants are designed to treat domestic waste only. Trade waste liquids may therefore need pre-treatment prior to disposal to sewer in order to remove contaminants that can't be processed by, or that adversely affect the operation of, the sewerage treatment facility.

Pre-treatment facilities include grease traps, interceptor pits, averaging pits, corrugated plate interceptors, separator systems and the like. As with all equipment they require regular maintenance to ensure they continue to operate effectively. The wastes they remove from the trade waste liquid must be removed and disposed by an appropriately licensed contractor (i.e. A contractor licensed by the NSW EPA).

Monitoring of the liquids being discharged to sewer is done to demonstrate the pre-treatment facility is operating effectively.



## How do I apply for a Trade Waste Agreement?

Contact Sydney Water on 13 11 10 and ask to speak to the Commercial and Industrial Customer Service Representative or go to the Sydney Water website at [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au) and click the quick services drop down box at the top of the page and follow the link 'Trade Waste Forms'.



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*The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and all other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.*