

Southern Water – Regulatory Position Statement

Pet Washing and Grooming (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.

Companies which undertake pet washing and grooming (and other similar operations) on a commercial basis and seek to dispose of this used water to the public foul sewer, may require a trade effluent consent. However 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 relevant 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 relevant 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 waste water from the following:

Wastewater from pet washing and grooming 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 Volume of Discharge

The maximum quantity of The Trade Effluent discharged at any period of twenty-four hours shall not exceed 5 m³.

5. Limits on Effluent Composition

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

- I. The discharge must not contain gross solids such as faeces, excessive amounts of hair or other solid material which is likely to block the sewerage system.
- II. The effluent must not contain materials that may be retained by a screen having perforations of 6 mm in diameter.
- III. The pH of the effluent must not be less than pH 6 or greater than pH 10.
- IV. 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.

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 you have any further queries you must talk to your Retailer. You must also tell them of any changes, such as an alteration to the volume of effluent you produce or the nature and composition of your discharge.