



# Trade Effluent Code of Practice Treated

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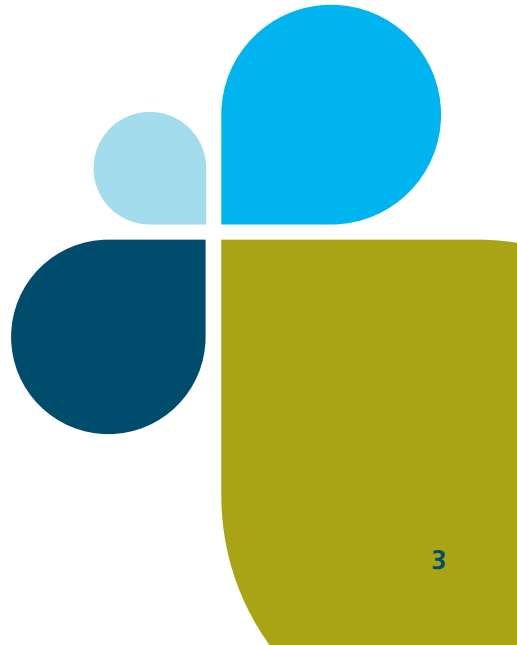
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# Introduction

1. Trade effluent, the waste water produced by industry, can be disposed of to the public sewer, provided that prior consent of Yorkshire Water is obtained.
2. Yorkshire Water issues trade effluent consents which are legal documents authorising the discharge of trade effluent into the public sewer.
3. Certain trade effluent can adversely affect the sewerage system, the receiving sewage treatment works, people and the environment. Conditions are therefore included in consents to provide effective control of trade effluent discharges to ensure that the above are protected.
4. Trade effluents impose a substantial treatment load on the sewage treatment works they drain to via the sewerage system. Consequently, consents provide for the recovery of the costs of the treatment and disposal of the trade effluent from the discharger.
5. This Code of Practice explains in detail Yorkshire Water's trade effluent control and charging policy.



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# Trade effluent legislation



6. The Water Industry Act 1991, which came into force on the 1st December 1991, consolidated within one act all previous legislation relating to the discharge of trade effluent to the public sewer.
7. The main sections of the Act concerning trade effluent are:-

## **Section 106**

Right to drain domestic sewage and surface or storm water from trade premises to the public sewer but not trade effluent.

## **Section 111**

Restriction on the discharge of harmful materials to the public sewer.

## **Section 118 (1)**

Right to discharge trade effluent to the public sewer with consent.

## **Section 118 (5)**

Offence to discharge trade effluent without consent.

## **Section 119**

Application for trade effluent consent.

## **Section 120**

Application in respect of special category effluent to be referred to the Secretary of State.

## **Section 121**

Conditions which may be attached to consents including the payment of charges.

## **Section 121 (5)**

Offence to contravene the conditions of consent.

## **Sections 122/123**

Rights of appeal to the Water Services Regulatory Authority in respect of applications for consent.

## **Sections 124/125**

Power to vary conditions of consent by direction.

## **Section 126**

Right of appeal to the Water Services Regulatory Authority in respect of variations of consent.

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**Section 127**

Review by the Secretary of State of consents relating to special category effluent.

**Section 129**

Agreements instead of consents.

**Section 130**

Agreements in respect of special category effluent to be referred to the Secretary of State.

**Section 131**

Review by the Secretary of State of agreements relating to special category effluent.

**Sections 132/133/134**

Determination of references and reviews relating to special category effluent.

**Section 138**

Meaning of 'special category effluent'.

**Section 139**

Secretary of State's power to extend the act to other effluents.

**Section 141 (1)**

Definitions of 'trade effluent' and 'trade premises'.

**Section 142 (2)**

Farms and scientific research establishments deemed to be trade premises.

**Sections 142/143/144**

Powers of undertakers to raise trade effluent charges.

**Section 168**

Right of entry.

**Section 196**

Public register of trade effluent documents.

8. The Trade Effluents (Prescribed Process and Substances) Regulations 1989 and The Trade Effluents (Prescribed Process and Substances) (Amendment) Regulations 1990. These regulations specify the industrial processes and the chemical substances which determine whether or not a particular trade effluent is special category effluent for the purposes of the Water Industry Act 1991.
9. The discharge of special category effluent has to be referred by Yorkshire Water to The Environment Agency, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, for their approval.

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# Application for consent

10. It is an offence to discharge trade effluent to the public sewer without consent. An application for consent to discharge trade effluent to the public sewer is by notice served on Yorkshire Water by the owner or occupier of the premises.
11. To enable the application to be processed, it is essential that all chemicals which could be present in the trade effluent discharge at any time, are listed. Also an adequate plan must be provided showing the point of connection to the public sewer.
12. A charge is payable for the processing of the application form and issuing of the consent. Charges are calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of Yorkshire Water's 'Charges Scheme and Scale of Other Charges' booklet which is produced annually.
13. Yorkshire Water staff will assist with the completion of the form and answer any queries regarding the form, if difficulty is experienced.
14. Applications involving special category effluent have to be referred to The Environment Agency by Yorkshire Water. The Environment Agency then issue a Notice of Determination in respect of the referral, the terms and conditions of which have to be incorporated in the trade effluent consent document.

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# Consents

15. Following the submission of an application for trade effluent consent, Yorkshire Water will either refuse to grant a consent or will issue a consent incorporating conditions to provide for effective control of the discharge and for the recovery of the costs of treatment and disposal of trade effluent.
16. Once a consent is issued, its terms and conditions cannot usually be varied for 2 years unless the discharger agrees to a variation. A consent is varied by the issuing of a legal document, known as a direction.
17. There is a right of appeal to the Water Services Regulatory Authority against failure or refusal to grant consent or against any conditions imposed in the consent or in any subsequent direction amending the terms and conditions of a consent.
18. In certain cases it is necessary to enter into an agreement with a discharger e.g. where the trade effluent discharges to a sewage treatment works via a private pipe. As with consents, conditions are written into agreements to provide control and recover charges.
19. Copies of consents, directions and agreements are kept by Yorkshire Water for inspection by the general public on a register.
20. A consent holder must advise Yorkshire Water immediately of any changes which could significantly alter the rate, quantity, nature or composition of the consented discharge.
21. Where a trade effluent discharge ceases, the consent should be returned to Yorkshire Water with a letter confirming that this is the case, which will enable a final trade effluent charging account to be issued.



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# Consent conditions

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22. The aim of trade effluent control is to ensure that discharges either alone or in combination with other effluents or the contents of the sewer cannot harm:
- a) the sewerage system
  - b) the sewage treatment works
  - c) employees and the general public
  - d) the environment.
23. To achieve this objective, conditions are written into consents to control trade effluent discharges on an individual basis.
24. Protection of Sewers  
Conditions are set to prevent:
- a) corrosion of the sewer fabric
  - b) overloading of sewers and possible flooding of properties
  - c) blockage of sewers
  - d) the formation of explosive, flammable and poisonous gases in sewers
  - e) hazardous situations developing in sewers for employees involved in the maintenance of the sewerage system
  - f) unacceptable discharges from storm water overflows on the sewerage system.
25. Protection of the Sewage Treatment Works  
Conditions are set to ensure that:
- a) the sewage arriving at the works can be treated effectively and economically by the available plant
  - b) damage does not occur to the structure of the works or to mechanical or electrical plant
  - c) employees operating the works are not harmed
  - d) biological treatment processes are not affected by toxic effluents
  - e) the treated sewage effluents produced by the works are suitable for discharge to river.
26. NOTE: It is an offence to fail to comply with the terms and conditions of consent.

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# Regulators



27. Discharges from storm water overflows on the sewerage system, the disposal to river of the effluents produced by Yorkshire Water at its sewage treatment works, and the disposal of the sludges produced at sewage treatment works are controlled by The Environment Agency.
28. Failure by Yorkshire Water to comply with the terms and conditions imposed by regulators in respect of any discharge to river, air or to land, could result in legal action being taken against Yorkshire Water.
29. Trade effluent consent conditions are therefore designed to ensure that Yorkshire Water complies with its legal and environmental obligations.

## Substances for control

30. To comply with EU and UK legislation to protect the environment from the effects of dangerous substances and to ensure that sewers, sewage treatment works, sewer workers and the public are fully protected, certain constituents and characteristics of trade effluent require control. Examples of such are:

**METALS** e.g. Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium and Nickel

**SOLVENTS** e.g. Chloroform, Toluene and 1,2-dichloroethane

**INSECTICIDES** e.g. Permethrin, HCH, Cyfluthrin and Diazinon

**HERBICIDES** e.g. Atrazine, MCPA, 2,4-D

**FUNGICIDES** e.g. Pentachlorophenol and Tributyl tin

**GENERAL** e.g. pH, Oil and Grease, COD, Sulphate, Ammonia, Solids and Inhibition

31. NOTE: **i)** the above list is not definitive and is dependent on the legislation, and the local circumstances surrounding a particular trade effluent discharge; **ii)** limits are normally set as maximum permitted concentrations; **iii)** in certain cases limits are applied on the load of particular substances which can be discharged in a given period (usually 24 hours); **iv)** it is the policy of Yorkshire Water to control dangerous substances at source by requiring industry to remove them prior to discharge to sewer.

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# Inspection and sampling

32. Yorkshire Water staff inspect and sample each trade effluent discharge both for checking compliance with consent conditions and for determining volume and strength values for trade effluent charging purposes.
33. It is a legal requirement that a discharger provides a sample point, usually an inspection chamber or manhole, which is acceptable to Yorkshire Water.
34. Normally only spot samples are taken, visits are timed so as to mix randomness with regularity such that samples cover all seasonal and operational variations.
35. Where a discharger prefers a composite sample to be obtained they must provide the necessary sampling equipment and maintain it.
36. Formal samples for possible legal action are taken in accordance with the statutory requirements. The discharger is notified of the intention to have such a sample analysed, the sample being divided into three parts, sealed and labelled. One portion is for the discharger, one for analysis and the third is retained for future comparison. Note: the results of spot samples are also admissible as evidence in court.
37. Samples taken are analysed in accordance with the methods of analyses used by Severn Trent Services.
38. Both the occupier of the premises and Yorkshire Water have a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure that the visiting officers can safely carry out their duties and they themselves will observe normal safety arrangements.

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# Flow measurement

- 39. The consent conditions normally require flow measuring equipment to be provided. Installation and the maintenance of this is the responsibility of the discharger.
- 40. Assessment of flow by other means such as water meters, process meters or pumping rates may be considered in certain circumstances.
- 41. The flow to be measured will include water which has been used for washing down yards, working areas and storage areas, rainfall from contaminated areas, and rainfall which is sampled along with the trade effluent discharge.

# Trade effluent charges

- 42. Charges are payable for the treatment and disposal of trade effluent received into the public sewer.
- 43. Charges are calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of Yorkshire Water's 'Charges Scheme and Scale of Other Charges' booklet which is published annually.
- 44. The discharge of domestic sewage is covered by a separate sewage charge as detailed in the charging booklet.

# Who to contact

- 45. To obtain copies of Yorkshire Water's trade effluent consent application form and Charges Scheme and Scale of Other Charges or if you have any queries regarding trade effluent matters, please contact Yorkshire Water Services Ltd at:

PO Box 52  
Bradford  
BD3 7YD  
0845 1 24 24 24

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# How can I contact you?



**Our contact centre is open for billing enquiries Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. For water and sewerage enquiries we're open Monday to Saturday 6.30am to 10pm and Sunday 7.30am to 10pm.**

**We're open 24 hours a day for emergency calls. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training and quality purposes.**

[Customer Helpline](#) 0845 1 24 24 24

[Leakage](#) 0800 57 35 53

[Asian language](#) 0845 1 24 24 21

[Text telephone](#) 0845 1 24 24 23

[24hr automated service for debit/credit card payments and meter readings](#) 0845 1 247 247 (please have your customer reference number to hand together with your meter reading or credit/debit card for payments)

[Fax](#) 01274 372 800

[Visit our website](#) [yorkshirewater.com/business](http://yorkshirewater.com/business)

[Or write to us](#) Yorkshire Water PO Box 52, Bradford BD3 7YD

Some of the information in this leaflet may not apply if you receive a service from any other water company. Please contact us if you are in doubt.