

# Plumbing Regulation

# Advisory Note

Current as at September 2008

## DRAINAGE: TRADE WASTE

### NEW DISCHARGERS

#### PURPOSE

To advise new trade waste dischargers, property owners and occupants of the requirements of the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* and the *Tasmanian Plumbing Code 2006* in regard to the discharge of liquid trade waste into the Network Utility Operator's sewage system.

#### WHAT ARE TRADE WASTES?

Trade Waste is generally defined as the liquid (trade) waste from any industry, business, trade or manufacturing premises, other than domestic sewage, which is disposed to the sewer. Liquid trade wastes are discharged from premises ranging from commercial kitchens, laundromats, mechanical workshops, car washes, dentists, through to tanneries, breweries and abattoirs and the like.

#### THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM

The sewerage systems and sewage treatment plants are principally designed to transport and treat domestic wastewaters. Therefore all other liquid waste must meet stringent standards to enable treatment. Liquid trade wastes may contain certain pollutants which:

- Block or damage sewerage infrastructures
- Are dangerous to sewer maintenance workers
- Are toxic to the biological treatment process
- Can pass through treatment plants only partially treated and endanger the environment.

Trade waste generators must ensure that their discharges do not cause such problems. In most cases some form of pre-treatment will be necessary before the waste can be accepted in the sewer.

#### TRADE WASTE PERMITS

Before any trade waste can be discharged to the sewerage system, a special plumbing permit must be obtained from the relevant council's permit authority. This is a legal requirement. An application for a special plumbing permit needs to be fully completed and submitted to the permit authority with all required documentation. The application will then be examined, advice about the necessary pre-treatment will be given and the process commenced towards issuing a permit. Resource materials (i.e. Trade Waste guidelines, etc) can also be obtained from the permit authority.

#### DISCHARGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Once a plumbing permit and a special plumbing permit authorising discharge has been received, dischargers are obliged to comply fully with all Permit conditions. The onus for maintaining trade waste management practices at all sites lies solely with dischargers/permit holders.

The council permit authority should be contacted if:

- Trade wastes are being discharged to the sewer and the premises does not have a special plumbing permit and a trade waste agreement where applicable
- The activity discharging trade wastes changes
- The owner of the business changes
- A new process is added.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

The **Plumbing Regulations 2004** is available online at: [www.thelaw.tas.gov.au](http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au)

The **Tasmanian Plumbing Code 2006** is available online at:  
[http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/plumbing/plumbing\\_code](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/plumbing/plumbing_code)

For details about the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* and the *Tasmanian Plumbing Code 2006* contact your Permit Authority (Council); or

Workplace Standards Tasmanian Helpline:

Phone: (in Tasmania) 1300 366 322; Phone: (outside Tasmania) (03) 6233 7657; Fax: (03) 6233 8338.

Email: [wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au) Website: [www.wst.tas.gov.au/building](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/building)

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