Introduction

It is an offence under section 111 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to allow any petroleum spirit, petroleum spirit mixture or oil made from a bituminous substance to enter a public sewer. Interception is necessary to prevent both entry and the potential accumulation of explosive gases.

Connection to foul or combined sewer of petrol spillage or petrol-contaminated run-off (either directly or via interceptor) is prohibited.

Process operations

It is an offence to discharge trade effluent to the public sewer without consent (Water Industry Act 1991, section 118). Trade effluent may require pre-treatment before it is deemed acceptable for discharge into the public sewer, details will depend upon the process operation concerned.

Flow and/or volume measurement may be required if the nature or volume of the discharge is significant with regard to the local sewerage system.

Sampling facilities (accessed via a suitable manhole or chamber) should be provided prior to the point where effluent discharges to the sewer. Trade effluent samples must exclude all other types of waste, e.g. domestic sewage or surface water. Standard consent limits for vehicle washes are listed in the appendix 1.

Drainage of pump areas on forecourts

The pump area must be bunded to exclude overland surface water flow where possible and the area should drain to a purpose-designed forecourt interceptor discharging to the storm water system. If no separate storm water system exists or can be provided, then no drainage connection will be permitted from any part of the forecourt where potential spillage could occur.

Waste storage areas

These areas must drain to a three-stage bypass interceptor or similar, to allow for the separation of oil products and grit. The areas concerned must be bunded to exclude overland surface water. The interceptor outflow should drain to the foul sewer. A manhole must be provided immediately downstream of the discharge point to allow for the collection of samples from the interceptor.

Accessways and parking areas

These areas must drain to a three-stage bypass interceptor or similar, to allow for the separation of oil products and grit. The outflow from the interceptor should drain to the storm water sewer. A manhole must be provided immediately downstream of the interceptor to allow for the collection of samples from the interceptor and to collect storm water from roofed areas.

Fixed vehicle washes

Wessex Water’s consent is required to authorise the discharge of vehicle wash effluent from trade premises to the public foul sewer. Discharges of less than five cubic meters per day may be approved in writing without the need for a formal consent.

All vehicle washes must be bunded to exclude overland surface water flow and to contain wash-water which must be discharged via a suitable silt trap upstream of the interceptor to prevent gross solids from entering the sewer.

A manhole or sampling point must be provided downstream of the interceptor which must exclude all other types of wastewater ie domestic sewage, surface water, roof drainage etc. A light manhole cover is adequate for this chamber.

A water meter should be fitted to the supply feeding the vehicle wash to record the volume of effluent discharged.

Hand-washing of vehicles

Vehicles washed by hand produce less drainage flow than fixed vehicle washes. Nevertheless, disposal of drainage arising from hand-washing of vehicles must follow the same guidance as for fixed vehicle washes. Ie

- WW approval
- Disposal to foul sewer only via an approved connection
- Grit separation via silt trap
- Oil interceptor (3-stage) as necessary
- Water meter fitted to the water supply
- Bunded area
- Exclusion of other drainage including roof water and surface water
- Sampling chamber downstream of the interceptor

Contamination of highway drains, groundwater, surface water culverts, ditches, rivers, streams, ponds or other watercourse may lead to prosecution by the Environment Agency. Contamination of pavements and other pedestrian areas is unsafe and may lead to legal action for damages or personal injury.
Appendix 1. Standard Consent Limits for Vehicle Washes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Maximum Acceptable Concentration</th>
<th>units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>6 to 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspended Solids</td>
<td>500 mg/l</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Oxygen Demand</td>
<td>1,000 mg/l</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fats, Oils and Greases</td>
<td>No visible oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>6 mm</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>