Trade Waste Acceptance Note TW 7

for Discharges From Pools

Date: 1st July 2005

ACTEW CORPORATION

1 Overview

The purpose of this 'Trade Waste Acceptance Note' is to outline under what circumstances ACTEW Corporation Ltd (ACTEW), ABN 86 069 381 960, will permit the discharge of liquid waste into the sewerage network.

Under section 127(1) of the *Utilities Act 2000*, it is an offence to discharge into the water or sewerage network any substance that is likely to interfere with the network, or form compounds that would be likely to interfere, unless the consent of the utility is obtained. Significant fines, imprisonment or both may result from an offence. Discharges entering an ACTEW sewer that are in breach of the conditions set out in this note will probably constitute a breach of section 127(1) of the Utilities Act and may lead to prosecution of the person discharging the waste, or allowing the waste to be discharged.

This Note contains specific information on waste types and discharge requirements. The requirements of this Note are in addition to the requirements specified in ACTEW's *Trade Waste Acceptance Note TW1 General Acceptance Criteria for Liquid Waste*.

2 Types Of Premises

This Note applies to

- commercial and institutional swimming, spa and hydrotherapy pool establishments,
- fountains and water features; and
- domestic scale swimming pools

This Note specifies only those requirements that relate to waste pre-treatment and acceptance to sewer. In addition, certain ACT Government requirements may also apply, including:

(a) where alterations to the plumbing occur, approvals from the ACT Planning and Land Authority and

(b) Environment ACT requirements relating to proposed discharges to the stormwater system, particularly concerning dechlorination and discharge of saline water.

3 Date of Effect

The provisions of this Note apply immediately to all new applications for connection of affected premises to the sewerage system and to all affected premises that may be already connected without appropriate approval from ACTEW.

Waste will continue to be accepted from premises previously approved by ACTEW. However, where a premise's existing facilities do not meet the requirements of this Note, the owners of such premises should upgrade their facilities, and will be required to do so in the future. Extensions or modifications to the premises will be subject to the conditions of this Note.

4 Acceptance Requirements

Additional requirements and some relevant limits from Trade Waste Note TW1 are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Issues of Concern and Related Sewer Acceptance Requirements

Issue	Concern	Sewer Acceptance Requirements
Large volume of discharge if pool is emptied	Treatment costs and possible local network overloading	Commercial / institutional pools are normally NOT to be drained to sewer, but may be drained to the stormwater system subject to Environment ACT approval. Under certain conditions ACTEW may agree to accept pool contents to sewer. Domestic pools may be drained to sewer only if ALL the following circumstances apply: • emptying is to facilitate major repairs or repainting, • the sewer connection is the sole form of pool drain. • pump out over a period of time onto a grassed area or to the stormwater drainage system with approval of Environment ACT is not feasible, and • water quality requirements indicated below would be satisfied.
Pool overflow (from rainwater entry or overfilling)	Treatment costs. Rainwater is not permitted to enter the sewer	As above
Filter backwash	High flow rate may locally overload network. Other specific water quality concerns.	Pools other than domestic pools may need to install and maintain instrumentation and controls to ensure discharge to sewer is • rate limited, and • restricted to times when the sewer has sufficient capacity. Water quality requirements indicated below must be satisfied. In addition suspended solids must be less than 1000 mg/L.
Saline water discharge	As desalination is not part of sewage treatment process, all the salt is discharged into the Murray-Darling basin. This is environmentally harmful and, if discharged via the sewer, may also cause ACTEW to be in breach of its discharge licence. Salt can harm sewer structures.	1. At other than domestic pools, fresh water must be used to backwash pool filters. 2. As indicated above, pool contents may not be discharged to sewer. (Advice only) Domestic pool owners should be aware of the environmental damage caused by salt, and that salt water chlorination may not be the cheapest option in terms of installation and long-term operation.
Storage of chemicals (including salt)	Spilled chemicals in high concentrations may cause corrosion and pose a risk to the health and safety of sewer workers.	Chemicals must be stored within bunds or areas which cannot drain to sewer and also the pool.

Table 1: Issues of Concern and Related Sewer Acceptance Requirements (continued)

Issue	Concern	Sewer Acceptance Requirements
Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), Ultraviolet and Ozone (O_3)	No issues	No restrictions
Chlorine • gas, • sodium hypochlorite (pool chlorine), or • calcium hypochlorite		Total chlorine not to exceed 5 mg/L as Cl
Bromine • Sodium hypochlorite with added bromide ion, or • Bromochloro-dimethyl hydantoin (Spabrom)		Combination of total chlorine plus total bromine concentrations not to exceed: • 5 mg/L as Cl, or • 10 mg/L as Br (use relationship 2 mg/L Br is equivalent to 1 mg/L Cl)
Quaternary ammonium compounds (Quats)		No limit
Sodium thiosulfate		Not to be used
Hydrochloric acid (Muriatic acid)		pH of discharge to be in the range 6.5 -10.0 units.
Colouring agents		Colour must not be noticeable at 100 dilutions.
Waste from animal pools / aquaria	Zoonotic disease transmission and spread of exotic species	ACTEW may determine further specific waste acceptance conditions
Ionic water purifiers	Metal ions (copper and silver Ag/Cu)	Not yet determined
Sodium dichloro-isocyanurate		Not yet determined
Trichloroisocyanuric acid		Not yet determined
Copper complexes		Not yet determined
Sodium bicarbonate		Not yet determined
Sodium carbonate (Soda ash)		Not yet determined