

EPP-3.5 Control of Drainage and Surface Water Discharge

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to prevent pollution to water courses (surface and groundwater) and to ensure compliance with the discharge consent or Environmental Permit and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (as amended) from the discharge of waste water (surface water runoff).

2. SCOPE:

A scrap metal processing facility normally represents a relatively low risk of pollution to water due to low concentrations of contaminants and non hazardous nature of contaminants surface water runoff from the site. Most facilities possess either a Discharge Consent (issued by the local waste water company) if waste water runoff is discharged to sewer or an Environmental Permit (or Permit to Discharge issued by the Environment Agency) if waste water runoff is discharged to surface water (streams, rivers, sea, soakaway).

Most UK depots now possess an impermeable concrete surface and a sealed drainage system, with surface water captured by drains, and channelled into interceptors (many equipped with penstock valves) prior to discharge to outfall to either surface waters (river, sea, soakaway etc.) or sewer. There should be no direct surface water runoff (under normal circumstances) or no direct pathway to the soil or groundwater.

3. PROCEDURE:

The Site Manager must ensure:

- 3.1 There is no direct surface water runoff from the site into the local environment (e.g. at the boundaries without passing via the interceptor and outfall).
- 3.2 That no polluting substances (oils, fuels, battery acid, cutting fluids) are allowed to enter the drains and subsequently potentially discharged into water courses via the outfall. All spills of polluting substances must be cleared immediately.
- 3.3 That the drains, silt traps and interceptors are cleared on a regular basis at a frequency as set out in the Environmental Permit and/or Management Plan.
- 3.4 That the drains, silt-traps and interceptors are cleared if there has been a major fire (generating fire water) or major pollution incident.
- 3.5 That the drains are kept clear of blockages and materials which may cause blockages (e.g. metal turnings/swarf).
- 3.6 That the penstock valve (if applicable) is functioning properly and can be closed easily in the event of a fire or major pollution event or opened easily in the event of flooding (following heavy rain).
- 3.7 That the surface water discharge at outfall, if possible is checked/inspected on a regular basis to ensure that it is running freely and cleanly (no excessive discolouration or odour present).
- 3.8 That the electric interceptor pump (or final tank pumps if post interceptor) if applicable, is functioning correctly.
- 3.9 That cutting fluid (soluble oils present with turnings) is not able to be discharged to drains (e.g. a sump/bund must be in place to contain the fluid).
- 3.10 That water sampling for analysis (if required) must be performed by trained EMR personnel (or accredited and approved consultants). Samples must be analysed against consent parameters in UKAS accredited laboratories only.
- 3.11 That all surface water from the site meets any discharge parameter limits as set out in the discharge consent or Environmental Permit or if there is no consent or permit for the site then the waste water largely meets standard EQVs (environmental quality values).
- 3.12 That a Flood Plan (if applicable) has been generated and implemented if the depot is located on a flood plain

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4. RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of the Site Manager to ensure the correct management and control of site drainage and compliant surface water discharge.

5. ASSOCIATED GUIDANCE & INFORMATION:

- Environmental Permit
- Effluent Discharge Consent (Water Company)
- Management Plan
- EPP-3.1 *Infrastructure – Interceptor Inspection & Maintenance*
- EPP-3.2 *Infrastructure – Bund Inspection & Maintenance*
- EPP-3.3 *Infrastructure – Sump Inspection & Maintenance*
- EPP-3.4 *Infrastructure – Taking Water Samples*

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Competency Test			
Assessor Name:		Date of Assessment:	
Assessor Signature:		Assessment Score: (marks / total)	/ 7
Employee Name:			<input type="checkbox"/> Pass (100%)
Employee Signature:			<input type="checkbox"/> Fail (below 100%)

Please tick correct answer(s)

Q1	When should the surface water discharge be checked?	
A:	On a regular basis.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Occasionally.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Never.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q2	Where can water sample analysis take place?	
A:	On site.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Off site laboratories.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	UKAS accredited laboratories.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q3	What substances should not be allowed to enter drains/ water courses?	
A:	Fuels and Oils.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Cutting fluids.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Battery acid.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q4	What should be cleared after a major fire or pollution event on site?	
A:	Material on site.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Drains, interceptors and material.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Drains, silt-traps and interceptors.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q5	Who can perform site water sampling?	
A:	Site Manager and Environmental Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Trained EMR personnel.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Accredited/approved consultants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q6	From where is a Environmental Permit or permit to Discharge into watercourses issued?	
A:	Environmental Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Environmental Agency.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Local Authority.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7	Who should ensure cutting fluid is not able to discharge into drains?	
A:	EMR staff.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Environmental Officer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Site Manager.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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