

Anglian Water - Regulatory Position Statement – 009 (COVID-19 specific)

Disposal of milk and other liquid dairy products to foul sewer

Background - The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in both supply chain issues and the closure of many business premises. Businesses affected may include dairies and those processing and producing dairy related products. At some sites this has resulted in a requirement to dispose of milk and other dairy related products with discharge to foul sewer seen as an option in some cases.

Unregulated discharges of milk and dairy products to sewer can have a significant detrimental impact on the operation of biological processes at water recycling centres due to shock high organic loading from the product and can cause septicity and odour issues in sewers. This can impact on our ability to treat sewage and return it safely to the environment. This may result in the pollution of watercourses with serious impacts on aquatic flora and fauna. In addition it may have an adverse effect on downstream abstractions for public water supply and other purposes.

Milk and other liquid dairy products fall under the Water Industry Act 1991 definition of 'trade effluent' and therefore should not be discharged into public sewers without the written consent of the relevant sewerage undertaker. As such we will always seek to regulate this type of activity through the existing consenting process and raise a wholesale charge in accordance with our published charges scheme.

Our Approach - In order to discharge to sewer within the Anglian Water region, the following must be complied with:

- The discharge must always be made to the foul sewer and not to a surface water sewer.
- For premises that currently have a trade effluent consent which specifically permits the discharge of milk and/or other dairy-related liquids you must discharge in full compliance with the consent conditions.
- For premises that currently have a trade effluent consent which does not permit the discharge of milk and/or other dairy-related liquids you must contact your retailer and apply for a consent variation.
- For premises that do not currently have a trade effluent consent you must contact your retailer and apply for a new consent.
- No discharge must be made until the consent, or consent variation, has been issued.

Please note that should you wish to discharge directly to a watercourse you will need to contact the Environment Agency.

Enforcement - It is an offence under the Water Industry Act 1991 to discharge any trade effluent to a sewer without consent or to discharge in breach of any consent condition. Further information on Anglian Water's approach to enforcement can be found [here](#).

What we expect from you - If you have any queries regarding this document and its applicability to your discharge you must contact your retailer. We expect you to have assessed all other disposal options before applying for a consent or consent variation – such other options may include land-spreading or tankering. To obtain the written consent of Anglian Water, including consent variations, you will need to contact your retailer and ask to complete a Trade Effluent Discharge Application form. You can identify your retailer by referring to your latest bill. Our ability to grant consent will depend on operational constraints.