
Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet

General Permit for Discharges of Miscellaneous Sewer Compatible (MISC) Wastewater from Industrial Users

Permit Overview

This general permit is issued under the authority of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance. DEEP uses both individual and general permits to regulate wastewater discharge activities. Individual permits are issued directly to an applicant, whereas general permits are issued to authorize similar activities by one or more applicants throughout a prescribed geographic area. A general permit sets terms and conditions for conducting an activity which, when complied with, are protective of the environment. General permits represent a streamlined process to permit specific activities and are more cost-effective for both the DEEP and the registrant.

The Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW, as defined by section 22a-430-3(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies) and the POTW Authority (as defined in the general permit) receiving the discharge of Miscellaneous Sewer Compatible Wastewater (MISC wastewater) from the Industrial User will administer the permit and has the authority to register dischargers, receive and review discharge monitoring reports, and enforce effluent limits and permit conditions.

“Miscellaneous sewer compatible wastewater” or *“MISC wastewater”* means any wastewater discharge that is NOT subject to Federal Categorical Pretreatment Standards under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR chapter I, subchapter N as amended. Domestic sewage including septage or sewage from portable sources and groundwater remediation wastewater are excluded from this definition. MISC wastewater includes but is not limited to air compressor condensate & blowdown, boiler blowdown, building maintenance wastewater, commercial laundry wastewater, contact cooling & heating water, cutting & grinding wastewater, fire suppression system testwater, food processing wastewater, hydrostatic pressure testing wastewater, non-contact cooling water, non-destruct testing rinsewater, printing and photographic processing wastewater, tumbling & cleaning wastewater, water treatment wastewater, and vehicle maintenance wastewater.

“Industrial User” or *“Miscellaneous Industrial User”* means a source of Indirect Discharge.

“Indirect Discharge” means the introduction of a discharge into a Publicly Owned Treatment Works from a non-domestic source.

Authorizing Statutes

Section 22a-430b of the General Statutes.

Discharges authorized by this general permit

The *General Permit for Discharges of Miscellaneous Sewer Compatible (MISC) Wastewater* (MISC general permit) will authorize discharges of “miscellaneous sewer compatible wastewater” either discharged directly to a POTW or transported there by vehicle. The Industrial User initiating, creating, originating or maintaining the discharge cannot be a Significant Industrial User (as defined in the general permit).

Registration and Fees

This general permit *may* require registration or a fee at the discretion of the POTW Authority approving the discharge.

The wastewater discharge categories below and text in Table 4-1 characterize the registration and fee requirements:

(A) Group I: Process Wastewater Discharges Cumulatively Less Than 25,000 Gallons per Day

- Contact cooling & heating water
- Cutting and grinding wastewater
- Non-destruct testing rinsewater
- Printing and photo processing wastewater
- Tumbling and cleaning wastewater
- Water treatment wastewater
- Commercial laundry wastewater
- Food processing wastewater
- Reverse osmosis reject water
- Other process wastewaters, including: (i) process wastewaters which are hauled by a Connecticut licensed transporter to a POTW that has been approved by the commissioner to accept over-the-road wastewater (a list of POTWs that have been approved by the commissioner to accept over-the-road wastewater is described in Appendix E of this general permit); (ii) process wastewaters requiring a variance; and (iii) other wastewaters determined by the commissioner to be process wastewaters.

(B) Group II: Non-process Wastewater Discharges (All Flows)

- Air compressor condensate & blowdown
- Boiler blowdown
- Building maintenance wastewater
- Fire suppression testing wastewater
- Hydrostatic pressure testing wastewater
- Non-contact cooling water
- Potable water system maintenance or sampling wastewaters
- Swimming pool wastewaters
- Vehicle maintenance wastewaters
- Other non-process wastewaters, including: (i) non-process wastewaters which are hauled by a Connecticut licensed transporter to a POTW that has been approved by the commissioner to accept over-the-road wastewaters (a list of POTWs that have been approved by the commissioner to accept over-the-road wastewater is described in Appendix E of this general permit); (ii) non-process wastewaters requiring a variance; and (iii) other wastewaters determined by the commissioner to be non-process wastewaters.

Table 4-1. Summary of Registration and Fee Requirements

Registration Requirements	Discharge Group	Total Maximum Daily Flow Thresholds	Certification Requirements	Fees
Registration with Approval (Submitted to POTW Authority)	I—Process Wastewater	Cumulative Flow < 25,000 gpd; contributes < 5% of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the receiving POTW Treatment plant; and is not otherwise designated an SIU by the Commissioner on the basis of reasonable potential for adversely affecting the receiving POTW's operation or for violating any federal or state pretreatment standard or requirement.	Certification by Qualified CT P.E., or Qualified CHMM in accordance with Section 4(c)(2)(R) for wastewater requiring a variance or treatment to meet effluent limitations.	As determined by POTW Authority, no fees required by DEEP
	II—Non-process Wastewater	All Flows		

Effluent Limits

Effluent limits found in the Miscellaneous General Permit are exhibited in Table 5-1 below:

Table 5-1 Effluent Limits¹

Pollutant	Maximum Instantaneous Concentration	Pollutant	Maximum Instantaneous Concentration
<i>Conventional Pollutants</i>	mg/l	<i>Metals and Other Pollutants</i>	mg/l
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5)	600.0 ²	Lead, Total	0.5
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	600.0 ²	Nickel, Total	2.0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	50.0 ³	Silver, Total	0.5 ⁵
Nitrate-Nitrogen	50.0 ³	Tin, Total	4.0
Total Fats, Oils and Grease ⁴	100.0	Zinc, Total	2.0
<i>Organic Pollutants</i>	mg/l		
Total Volatile Organics	5.0	Antimony, Total	4.0
Formaldehyde	10.0 ³	Arsenic	0.10
Methylene Chloride	1.0	Beryllium, Total	2.0
Phenols, Total	10.0	Cobalt, Total	4.0

Phthalate Esters	2.0	Mercury, Total	0.0002
Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons	0.5	Molybdenum, Total	4.0
Ethylene Glycol	300.0 ³	Selenium, Total	0.5
Propylene Glycol	300.0 ³	Strontium, Total	2.0
Metals and Other Pollutants	mg/l	Thallium, Total	2.0
Cadmium, Total	0.5	Titanium, Total	4.0
Chromium, Total	2.0	Vanadium, Total	2.0
Copper, Total	2.0	Zirconium, Total	2.0

¹These effluent limits do not apply to residuals generated by water treatment facilities that are transported to the solids handling portion of a POTW.

²This pollutant concentration may be exceeded provided that the total mass loading (flow x concentration) of such pollutant discharged to the receiving POTW does not exceed 100.0 lbs/day or 2% of the POTW's design loading, whichever is less. This limit does not apply to discharges of Food Processing Wastewater or Water Treatment Wastewater.

³For ammonia-nitrogen, nitrate-nitrogen, formaldehyde, ethylene glycol, or propylene glycol, the pollutant concentration may be exceeded provided that the total mass loading (flow x concentration) of each pollutant discharged to the receiving POTW does not exceed 10.0 lbs/day.

⁴For food processing wastewaters only, use EPA Method 1664, Rev. A reporting as Total Oil & Grease. For all other wastewaters use EPA Method 1664, Rev A reporting as Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons.

⁵For photographic processing wastewaters only, if maximum daily flow is less than 100 gallons per day, the silver effluent limit is 5.0 mg/l. For flows greater than 100 gpd, the silver limit is 2.0 mg/l.

POTW-Specific Pollutant Limits—Because pollutant loading at a POTW varies across the state and some POTWs have greater capacities to handle problem pollutants, some POTW specific pollutant limits were established for some of the most common problem pollutants and are found in Appendix D1 of the general permit. These POTW Specific Pollutant Limits only apply to registrants with total maximum daily flows greater than 5000 gpd.

Prohibited Chemical Additives—Wastewater discharged under the authority of this general permit shall not contain any chemical additive containing any substance listed in Appendix B, Table II, III, or V or Appendix D of Section 22a-430-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, other than a substance for which an effluent limit is specified in Table 5-1 of this section or as otherwise approved by the POTW Authority in accordance with Section 6(a) of this general permit.

Other Conditions

Wastewater discharged under the authority of this general permit shall not:

- (1) cause or threaten interference or adverse effect upon the operation of the POTW;
- (2) cause or threaten interference or adverse effect upon the POTW's sludge handling, use or disposal, including but not limited to noncompliance with any federal, state, local laws, regulations or ordinances;
- (3) cause or threaten the POTW to exceed its influent design loading parameters;
- (4) cause or threaten the POTW to violate its permit, including but not limited to exceeding its permit limits;
- (5) cause or threaten a worsening of any condition which is causing the POTW to exceed its influent design loading parameters or violate its permit; or
- (6) cause or threaten pass through of any substance into the receiving waters which then causes or threatens pollution;

- (7) contain pollutants which causes or threatens a fire or explosion hazard in the receiving POTW;
- (8) cause or threaten corrosive structural damage to the sanitary sewer or receiving POTW and shall not have a pH of less than 5.0 or more than 12.0 Standard Units;
- (9) contain solid or viscous pollutants in amounts which will cause obstruction of flow in the sanitary sewer system or receiving POTW;
- (10) contain heat in amounts which will inhibit biological activity in the receiving POTW;
- (11) contain pollutants which result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors or fumes within the POTW in a quantity that may cause acute worker health or safety problems; and
- (12) contain either singly or in combination with other discharges any pollutant in sufficient amounts to cause acute worker health and safety problems, problems in the collection system or pass through or interference with the receiving POTW;
- (13) cause or contribute to foaming at the receiving POTW or within its effluent; and
- (14) contain either singly or in combination with other discharges flow in excess of the hydraulic capacity of the receiving POTW's conveyance system.

Treatment

Treatment shall be required for any pollutant capable of exceeding the limits listed in this general permit.

For any photoprocessing discharge where silver is a known or suspected pollutant, a silver recovery system must be installed.

Professional Certification

For any discharge authorized by this general permit, either a Qualified Professional Engineer licensed in the state of Connecticut, or a Qualified Certified Hazardous Manager for certain pre-engineered treatment systems, must certify that the treatment system has been designed and properly installed and that proper operation and maintenance will ensure that all effluent limits specified in the general permit are met.

Parameter Monitoring

Table 5-2 in the general permit indicates monitoring parameters for various categories of flow, the most common being pH, total suspended solids, oil & grease, copper, lead, and zinc. Registrants must also monitor for any parameters specified in Section 5(a)(1) that are known or suspected to be present in the discharge.

The monitoring and reporting frequencies, based on discharge group and maximum daily flows, are exhibited in Table 5-3 below:

Table 5-3 Monitoring and Reporting Frequencies

Discharge Group	Total Maximum Daily Flow Thresholds per Category of Wastewater	Minimum Frequency of Pollutant Monitoring^{1,2}
Group I – Process Wastewaters (except as noted below)	Flow < 1,000 gpd	None
	1,000gpd ≤ Flow < 10,000gpd	Quarterly
	10,000gpd ≤ Flow < 25,000gpd	Monthly
Group I -- Food Processing, Commercial Laundry, Reverse Osmosis	Flow < 25,000 gpd	None

Reject Water		
Group II -- Air Compressor Condensate, Boiler Blowdown, Non-contact Cooling Water, Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater	Flow < 10,000 gpd	None
	Flow ≥ 10,000 gpd	Quarterly
Group II -- Building Maintenance, Fire Suppression Testing, Swimming Pool, Vehicle Maintenance, Potable Water System Maintenance, etc. ³	All Flows	None

¹Discharges that do not have a prescribed monitoring frequency must comply with the effluent limits of Section 5(a)(1) of this general permit. The permittee should maintain records of monitoring data that the permittee believes is representative of the current discharge.

²For water treatment wastewaters associated with annual or semi-annual maintenance cleaning of clarifier tank, settling lagoon, or other large tanks which may discharge greater than 50,000 gallons per day, samples shall be taken from the first 10% and last 10% of the discharge and analyzed separately. Such discharges shall not be counted toward the total maximum daily flow when determining monitoring frequency. For all other water treatment wastewater discharges greater than 10,000 gpd, if the discharge lasts longer than four hours, two grab samples shall be taken at least four hours apart and composited.

³See Section 5(b)(2).

Flow Monitoring

Flow monitoring will be required for discharges greater than 1000 gpd according to the frequency in Table 5-3. Discharge flows of greater than 5000 gpd will be measured by means of a flow meter system and associated recording device which measures, visually indicates, and records instantaneous and total daily flow.

pH Monitoring

pH monitoring will be required for discharges according to the category and frequency in Table 5-3. If pH adjust is necessary, registrant must comply with section 22a-430-3(q) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which requires continuous pH monitoring.

Recordkeeping

Registrants must keep records for all parameters monitored which include total daily flow, a description of the process or activity which generated the discharge, analytical results and sample chain of custody.

For new registrants, one screening analysis from the testing of a sample taken within 90 days of registration for pollutants specified by Section 5(b) of this general permit shall be submitted with the registration form.

Reporting Requirements

For any category of Group I or Group II discharges with a total flow greater than 10,000 gpd (excluding noncontact cooling water and hydrostatic pressure testing wastewater), results of monitoring shall be reported to the POTW Authority on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) at the same frequency as the monitoring frequency for that flow.

General Conditions

The general permit also contains general operating conditions that:

- encourage water conservation, chemical substitution and reuse, and pollution prevention.
- requires that discharges are in conformance with the sewer use ordinance of the municipality receiving the discharge
- the discharge shall be totally enclosed in piping from the source to a POTW unless operating conditions require otherwise. Best management practices shall be used for chemical and fuel storage to prevent spillage that could be received by floor drains, trenches, etc.
- any spill or release or leakage of any chemical liquid shall be immediately cleaned up and disposed of in accordance with all applicable state and federal law.
- require that wastewater discharged under the authority of this general permit must not
 - cause corrosive, structural damage to the receiving POTW
 - interfere with or disrupt the operations of the receiving POTW
 - create unhealthy or unsafe conditions at the receiving POTW
 - contain any chemical, solvent, or other substance which is a hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261, Subparts C and D, unless the concentration of such substance complies with the effluent limits specified in Section 5(b) of this general permit.
 - contain substances which may cause foaming at the receiving POTW

Collection and Transport of Wastewater from Unsewered Areas

The general permit contains requirements for the proper storage and transport of wastewaters from areas that do not have direct access to a sanitary sewer.

Permit Duration

This general permit shall expire on October 30, 2025.

Transfer

An authorization under this general permit is transferrable only in accordance with the requirements of the applicable POTW Authority.

Contact Address

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This overview is designed to answer general questions and provide basic information. You should refer to the appropriate statutes and regulations for the specific regulatory language of the different permit programs. This document should not be relied upon to determine whether or not an environmental permit is required. It is *your* responsibility to ensure that all required permits have been obtained.