



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

**LIQUID TRADE WASTE POLICY
FOR DISCHARGES INTO WASTEWATER
SYSTEMS OWNED AND OPERATED BY
WATER AUTHORITY OF FIJI**

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND
SEWERAGE & WATER AUTHORITY OF FIJI

1.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following means:

- (a) **Liquid Trade Waste** refers to wastewater that is discharged from commercial and industrial business processes and is distinct from human sanitary wastewater;
- (b) **Human Sanitary Wastewater** refers to liquid waste discharged from toilets, bathrooms, sinks or other forms of discharge from households and are domestic in nature;
- (c) **Effluent** refers to liquid trade waste or domestic wastewater discharged into a receiving body, either the environment or WAF wastewater system; and
- (d) **WAF** refers to Water Authority of Fiji.

2.0 Introduction

This policy aims to facilitate the provision of an efficient and effective management system and mechanism for liquid trade waste discharge from industrial and commercial entities inclusive of waste tankers into the WAF wastewater facilities for the protection of the environment and human health.

3.0 Objective

The objective of this policy is:

- (a) to ensure that provision is made to enable industrial and commercial entities to discharge liquid trade waste into the WAF's wastewater infrastructure, where it is available;

WAF reserves the right to make operational and management changes, with appropriate and timely notification, at any time.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 The policy provides an enabling framework to address the management of liquid trade waste discharge to the wastewater network owned and operated by WAF. It is a framework that is consistent with the Environment Management Act 2005.
- 9.2 This document is to be used for the management of liquid trade waste disposal throughout Fiji into the Water Authority of Fiji sewerage system.

- 7.2 Some performance Indicators of this policy include:
- (a) increase in the number of industrial and commercial wastewater connections to WAF wastewater network;
 - (b) quality of treated wastewater discharged into the environment by WAF systems meets the wastewater quality standard stipulated by Department of Environment;
 - (c) ensures that commercial and industrial entities are aware of the importance of being connected to the WAF wastewater network;
 - (d) reduction in blockages and chokes in the WAF wastewater network;
 - (e) improved understanding of the impact of liquid trade waste on WAF treatment systems;
 - (f) no health and safety incidents in WAF assets due to liquid trade waste treatment and discharges;
 - (g) decrease in water consumption by commercial entities; and
 - (h) properly managed and treated commercial and industrial tanker wastewater.

8.0 Review of the Policy

This policy shall be reviewed every 3 years to determine whether the indicators have been achieved and to make necessary policy changes which may improve on the services provided by WAF.

- (b) upon notification, WAF will inspect and verify the connection and will issue a certificate of connection to the customer;
- (c) if the customer proposes to discharge liquid trade wastewater into the WAF's sewerage system, an application must be made to WAF; and
- (d) a wastewater connection does not constitute approval to discharge liquid trade waste into WAF's system.

- 3.1 In the case of tankered waste, all tankers are required to:
- (a) obtain a permit for disposal from WAF; and
 - (b) abide by the conditions for the trade waste program set by WAF.
- 3.2 The wastewater will not be accepted where it:
- (a) compromises the operational or structural integrity of the receiving wastewater network;
 - (b) compromises the ability of WAF to treat the wastewater and meet the standards set out in the Environment Management Act 2005 and other requirements set by the Department of Environment;
 - (c) creates conditions in and around the wastewater network that may render it an unsafe workplace or affect community amenities;
 - (d) prevents the appropriate disposal of wastewater treatment by products;
 - (e) compromises water conservation and solid waste recycling measures; or
 - (f) fails to meet WAF acceptance standards

4.0 Scope

- 4.1 WAF shall develop efficient and effective mechanisms for entities to apply for, and discharge liquid trade waste to the wastewater collection and or treatment network.

- 4.2 To ensure successful implementation and management of the program, a management plan has been prepared by WAF.

The management plan gives a detailed outline of the following:

- (a) a categorization of liquid trade waste processes based on the complexity of managing, accepting and monitoring these discharges;
- (b) substance acceptance standards, prescribed trade waste pre-treatment and conditions applicable to each category;
- (c) applications for entities to apply for a Trade Waste approval;
- (d) a standard Permit and/ or contract for each discharge category that outlines the conditions of ongoing approval to discharge.

- 4.3 This policy is aligned with:

- (a) The Liquid Trade Waste Management Plan;
- (b) The Fiji National Waste Management Strategy Action Plan ;
- (c) Republic of Fiji National Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2016 – 2026.

5.0 Fees and Charges

- 5.1 WAF will develop trade waste charges in consultation with appropriate stakeholders that are connected to its system in accordance with the relevant laws of Fiji.

- 5.2 Any fees or charges levied, including variations, shall be subject to the Commerce Commission Act 2010 and other relevant laws of Fiji.

6.0 Penalties

Penalties shall be levied when entities do not comply with the relevant laws of Fiji and requirements that are connected to the WAF sewerage system.

7.0 Policy Benefits and Performance Indicators

- 7.1 Some of the benefits of this policy include:

- (a) a mechanism for the industry to adequately dispose of pre-treated liquid trade waste;
- (b) sustainable waste management and resource recovery within the industrial and commercial sectors;
- (c) improved water conservation and water cycle management;
- (d) Generates a sense of accountability within the industrial and commercial sector by properly disposing their wastewater into the WAF system; and a cleaner environment, a healthy public and sustainable use of Fiji's natural resources.