

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

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

**WATER AUTHORITY OF FIJI &
THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWERAGE**

1.0 Definitions

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

2.0 Introduction

This policy document 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 Water Authority of Fiji wastewater facilities for the protection of the environment and human health.

3.0 Policy Objective

To ensure that provision is made for industrial and commercial entities to discharge liquid trade waste into the Water Authority of Fiji wastewater infrastructure where it is available.

3.1 The wastewater will not be accepted if it:

- (a) Compromises the operation 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), Environment Permits or other requirements set by the Department of Environment;
- (c) Creates conditions in and around the wastewater network that may make it an unsafe workplace or affect community amenity;
- (d) Inhibits the appropriate disposal of wastewater treatment by products;
- (e) Compromises water conservation and solid waste recycling measures;

(f) Fails to meet WAF acceptance standards.

4.0 Relevant Legislation and Authorities

This policy acts in concurrence with the following legislation and authorities:

- (i) Constitution of the Republic of Fiji – Clause 40;
- (ii) Water Authority of Fiji Promulgation 2007;
- (iii) Environment Management Act 2005;
- (iv) Waste Disposal of Recycling Regulations, 2007;
- (v) Public Health Act 1936;
- (vi) Republic of Fiji National Climate Change Policy (improved waterway conditions, Clean Development Mechanism Policy Guidelines);
- (vii) United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- (viii) Liquid Waste Discharge Action Plan, 2007;
- (ix) Fiji National Liquid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan;
- (x) Green Growth Framework;
- (xi) Health and Safety at Work Act 1996.

5.0 Background

5.1 Water Authority of Fiji is the main service provider for collection and treatment of wastewater treatment in Fiji as stipulated in the Water Authority of Fiji Promulgation of 2007 therefore WAF is obligated to abide and comply with the Fiji National Liquid Waste Discharge Standard of the Environment Management Act.

5.2 The issue of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharge from commercial and industrial entities and agricultural activities has

been a major concern to Government as it has been a major cause for pollution in our waterways thus having a harmful effect on human health and the environment.

- 5.3 Environmental degradation and health impacts can be very costly for Fiji when addressing or rectifying health disease outbreaks such as cholera, typhoid fever and environmental clean ups from acids, dyes, hydrocarbons, heavy metals, excessive and complex organic compounds and other agents.
- 5.4 The decrease in the quality of natural resources and its value due to pollution from liquid trade waste and poor wastewater management may lead to serious economic loss such as tourism earnings in areas where coral reefs are the main attraction.

6.0 Prerequisite Requirement to Connect to the Wastewater Network

- 6.1 The Water Authority of Fiji Promulgation 2007 requires all commercial and industrial entities situated within 30 metres of WAF wastewater line, to connect to the WAF wastewater network:
 - (a) Non-connected customers within the 30m zone, should apply for a new wastewater connection and engage a certified plumber to connect their entity to the WAF system through the identified connection point;
 - (b) When connected, the customer is to inform WAF that the work has been completed and they are connected to the system;
 - (c) WAF will inspect and verify the connection and will issue a certificate of connection;

- (d) If the entity proposes to discharge liquid trade wastewater into WAF system, an application must be made to WAF;
- (e) A wastewater connection does not constitute approval to discharge liquid trade waste.

6.2 Tankered waste:

- (a) All tankers need to get a permit for disposal from WAF;
- (b) All tankers need to abide to the conditions for the trade waste program set by WAF.

7.0 Scope

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.

7.1 WAF will make available and publish the following:

- (i) A Categorization of liquid trade waste processes based on the complexity of managing, accepting and monitoring these discharges;
- (ii) Substance acceptance standards, prescribed trade waste pretreatment and conditions applicable to each category;
- (iii) A Management Plan;
- (iv) Applications for entities to apply for a Trade Waste approval;

- (v) A standard Permit and/ or Contract for each discharge category that outlines the conditions of ongoing approval to discharge.

7.2.1 This will align with:

- (i) The Liquid Trade Waste Management Plan;
- (ii) The Fiji National Waste Management Strategy Action Plan ;
- (iii) Environmental Management Waste Disposal of Recycle Regulations 2007.

8.0 Fees and Charges

- 8.1 WAF will develop trade waste charges in consultation with appropriate stakeholders.
- 8.2 Fees charged shall be affected with the approval of the Fiji Commerce Commission.
- 8.3 Changes to charges will be published 6 months prior to enforcement and commencement.

9.0 Penalties

Penalties shall be applicable when non-compliance is practiced by commercial and industrial companies.

10.0 Policy Benefits and Performance Indicators

10.1 Benefits:

- (a) A mechanism for industry to dispose of adequately pretreated liquid trade waste;
- (b) Sustainable waste management and resource recovery within the industrial and commercial sector;
- (c) Improved water conservation and water cycle management;
- (d) A sense of accountability within the industrial and commercial sector by properly disposing their wastewater into the WAF system;
- (e) A cleaner environment, a healthier public and a sustainable use of Fiji natural resources.

10.2 Performance Indicators:

- (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) Each and every commercial and industrial entity is educated on 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 businesses;
- (h) Properly managed and treated commercial and industrial tanker wastewater.

11. Review of the Policy

This policy is to be reviewed after 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.

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

12. Conclusion

12.1 This policy document provides an enabling framework to address the issue of the management of liquid trade waste discharges to the wastewater network owned and operated by WAF. It is a framework that is consistent with the Environment Management Act 2005 and Waste Disposal Recycling Regulations 2007.

12.2 This document is to be used for the management of liquid trade waste in Fiji.