

Industrial Discharge Control Program Permitting FAQs

The following WSSC Water Industrial Discharge Control (IDC) FAQs are provided to help a business owner or representative through the discharge authorization evaluation and permitting process.

What types of businesses are regulated under the pretreatment program?

All businesses located within WSSC Water's jurisdiction that generate non-domestic wastewater (known as industrial users) must comply with our [Industrial Waste Regulations](#), Section 8 of the WSSC Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code. "Industrial User" means any place of business, endeavor, arts, trade or commerce, whether public or private, commercial or charitable, that uses in a product, process, or any manner that generates wastewater which is a source of indirect discharge. However, industrial users that meet the criteria of a Significant Industrial User must comply with additional requirements.

What is a Significant Industrial User?

*A **Significant Industrial User (SIU)** is defined as: (1) All industrial users subject to [Categorical Pretreatment Standards](#) under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR chapter I, subchapter N; and (2) Any other industrial user that: discharges an average of 25,000 gallons per day or more of process wastewater; contributes a process waste stream which makes up 5 percent or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the treatment plant; or is designated as an SIU by WSSC Water on the basis that the industrial user has a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the operation of WSSC Water's Water Resource Reclamation Facilities.*

When are Industrial Users required to obtain a Discharge Authorization Permit?

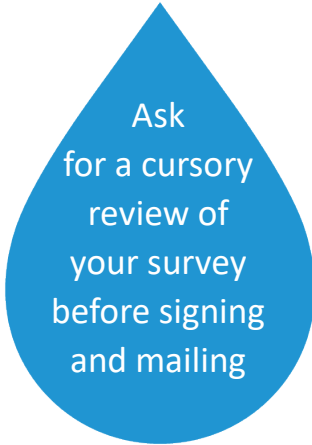
Facilities under construction should apply for a permit at least 90 days before discharging process wastewater to WSSC Water's sanitary sewer. Existing facilities should apply as soon as possible.

How do I apply for my facility?

To evaluate the facility's operations and non-domestic wastewater generated, you must initially complete a WSSC Water Industrial Wastewater Survey (IWS) and submit it to this office. We will guide you through the process and advise if completing a Discharge Authorization Permit Application is required.

What if I am building or renovating a facility into speculative laboratory spaces and do not have any tenants yet?

We ask that you to complete the survey now to ensure the facility is properly prepared for tenants.



Ask
for a cursory
review of
your survey
before signing
and mailing

What do I do when I have a tenant who will be occupying the space soon?

Provide a copy of WSSC Water’s IWS to the tenant when they sign the lease to occupy space. The tenant is required to complete and submit the survey to WSSC Water so that we can evaluate the tenant’s operations and the non-domestic wastewater generation.

What are the plumbing plan requirements for new construction, buildouts, or renovations?

The plumbing plans submitted to WSSC Water should have all process waste streams identified; segregated piping for waste streams (process versus domestic); under sink or whole building pH neutralization or other applicable pretreatment; and the location noted for an Industrial Waste Monitoring Point (IWMP) at the end of the process or whole building. See below for IWMP drawing.

For any questions regarding the plumbing plan submission process have your WSSC Master Plumber contact WSSC Water’s Plumbing-Mechanical Engineering Plan Review Section.

Phone: 301-206-8886

Email: PlumbingPlansReview@WSSCWater.com

How do I know where to locate the IWMP on the plans?

Categorical regulations require the IWMP to be located at the end of the process, upstream of where the process waste line connects to sanitary

waste line. For non-categorical facilities the IWMP location is at the “end of pipe” i.e., on the main waste line, upstream of where the main line connects to the WSSC Water Collection system.

Where should the IWMP be located if the Categorical status is unknown or if we are building the space for a new tenant or multiple tenants?

For this case, the IWMP is best located at the end of the process, at the point where the wastewater leaves the laboratory space. You may need to install an IWMP for each laboratory space that could be occupied by different unrelated tenants.

What is under sink pH Neutralization?

Most laboratories use chemicals, where the pH can vary greatly on the pH scale from acidic to basic in their operations. Under sink pH neutralization is a device installed on the sink drain to neutralize the wastewater to protect the building plumbing and ensure that the wastewater being discharged falls between the WSSC Water allowable pH range of 6 to 10 standard units.

Do the plumbing plans go through an IDC review?

Yes. For facilities that house an Industrial User with processes that generate non-domestic process wastewater, IDC will complete a review for the plumbing plans to be approved and released.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE CONTROL PROGRAM

Why does IDC review plumbing plans?

WSSC Water's goal is to maintain compliance with all Federal, State and local regulations. Collaborating with Industrial Users at the beginning stages, when plumbing plans are submitted, ensures compliance with these regulations. We also know it is easier to adjust plumbing plans prior to construction rather than to make modifications after the facility is built.

Are there additional requirements for facilities that work with pharmaceuticals?

Yes, once IDC's review of the documents begins, the Authorized Representative may be required to complete the WSSC Water Non-Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Certification. 40 CFR Part 439 can be referenced for additional information.

How can I find out if an existing tenant has completed and submitted the survey as required?

Contact IDC to find out if your tenant has completed the necessary process. If they have, we will have their information in our database. You may want to confirm this information if you are a new landlord and wish to ensure the tenants are compliant.

What if an existing tenant is changing their operations?

Each Industrial User is required to notify WSSC Water whenever there are process changes. Whether increasing, decreasing, or starting to manufacture product, WSSC Water needs to re-evaluate their operations and non-domestic wastewater generation.

Where can I find the IDC forms and additional information?

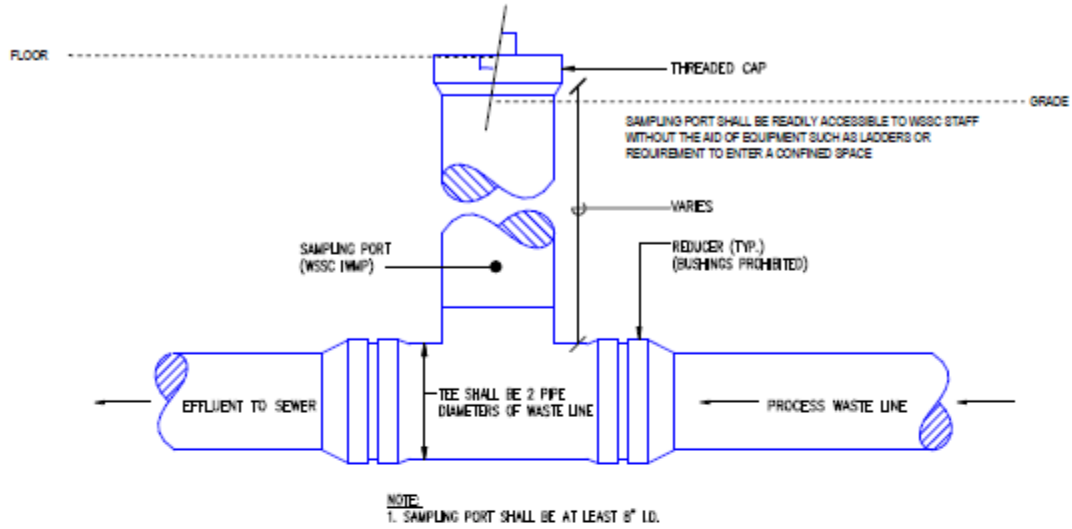
Additional information, the IDC forms, as well as Section 8 of the Code, can be found at IDC's page on the WSSC Water website: www.WSSCWater.com/IDC.

For any questions, contact WSSC Water's Industrial Discharge Control Section.

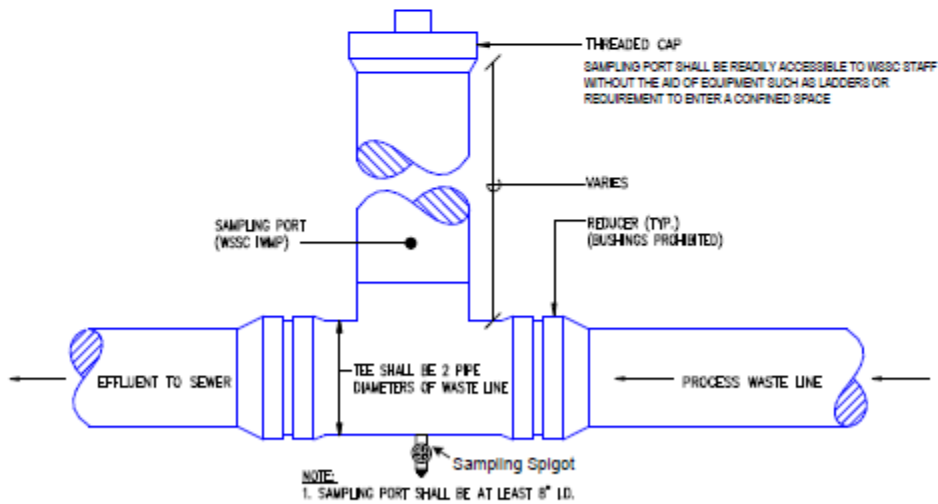
Phone: 301-206-8841

Email: IndustrialDischargeControl@WSSCWater.com

STANDARD WSSC IWMPs



DETAIL 1 – WSSC INDUSTRIAL WASTE MONITORING PORT (EXTERIOR/BELOW GRADE)
NO SCALE



DETAIL 2 – WSSC INDUSTRIAL WASTE MONITORING PORT (INTERIOR)
NO SCALE