

Industry self-monitoring

Industrial waste - information sheet 17

What is self monitoring?

The Water Corporation's Commercial and Industrial Services carries out regular sampling of the wastewater from large industrial customers to characterise the chargeable loading discharged to sewer. Under a self-monitoring arrangement the customer is responsible for sampling of industrial effluent, rather than the Water Corporation performing this function. They may do the sampling themselves, or use an approved contractor. Analysis of samples is carried out at a commercial laboratory acceptable to the Water Corporation. Results are then submitted to the Corporation on a formatted spreadsheet where they are used to determine the quality/quantity industrial waste charges.

What are the advantages of self-monitoring to the customer?

Sampling can be done more frequently than the Water Corporation. This means that less chargeable loading is determined from any one sample, and reduces the impact of a stronger than typical sample on industrial waste charges. Extra samples can be taken if a high atypical result is obtained.

Accruing industrial waste charges can be tracked, using the spreadsheet supplied by the Corporation.

The availability of more frequent wastewater quality data should also help optimise process performance, which may enable wastewater strength to be reduced or product loss to the waste stream minimised. This could result in more efficient use of resources and provide cost savings.

What sampling procedures are involved?

The sampling procedure would be the same as that used by the Water Corporation. That is flow-proportional composite sampling using an auto sampler. For more information please refer to the [Sampling of Industrial Waste information sheet](#). Meter readings, would also be required to determine the volume of the discharge.

How often must sampling be done?

Customers may choose how often samples are taken, as long as this is not less frequently than the Water Corporation would sample.

Sampling frequency is a balance between increasing cost of sampling and increasing precision in determination of waste strength. The Water Corporation will provide guidance on the optimum sampling frequency. For most large customers, the cost-effective optimum is somewhere between fortnightly and quarterly sampling.

What are the musts for the customer?

Customers must:

- Take samples and have analysis performed in the same manner as the Corporation. This will be defined in a protocol agreed when self-monitoring is set up.
- Take samples on prearranged dates.
- Seek agreement from Commercial and Industrial Services before making changes to sampling dates or any other agreed aspects of the self-monitoring procedures.

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- Report the data to Commercial and Industrial Services in the agreed format, usually a spreadsheet provided by Commercial and Industrial Services, at agreed intervals (usually on a quarterly basis). Acceptance criteria non-compliance is to be reported immediately.

What happens if the results are unusual?

Results which appear non-typical will be subject to the same review that the Water Corporation applies to its own samples. Depending on the situation, the sample result may be discarded, applied for a limited time, or may stand.

Who pays for the cost of self-monitoring?

The customer bears the cost of sampling and analysis under a self-monitoring arrangement. However self-monitoring customers are not subject to the Water Corporation's industrial waste sampling and meter reading fees.

Will the Water Corporation still take samples?

Staff from Commercial and Industrial Services will continue to visit the site to inspect waste treatment facilities, as is presently the case. They will also audit self-monitoring activities, and may take check samples occasionally. However, the customer's own samples will be those normally used for charging purposes.

Is self-monitoring available to all customers?

Yes. However, it is most cost effective for customers with relatively large volume, high-strength, variable wastes. For smaller dischargers, the value from self-monitoring is limited, as the cost of frequent sampling becomes significant in comparison to total industrial waste charges. Self-monitoring is also of lesser value for customers where volume is the largest component of the industrial waste charge.

Commercial and Industrial Services will provide advice on the worth of a self-monitoring program for the business, however it is their decision.

What steps are required to set up self-monitoring?

If a business is interested in self-monitoring, they should contact Commercial and Industrial Services for further advice. A self-monitoring protocol will be agreed in writing, documenting the way in which sampling, analysis and data reporting will be carried out. It can be amended by negotiation at any time. Unless self-monitoring is a permit condition a business may withdraw from self-monitoring at a future time. If this happens, the Water Corporation will carry out sampling to determine quality/quantity charges at a frequency to fit their sampling programmes.

More information

For more information about industry self-monitoring please call **13 13 95** or visit your nearest Water Corporation office.