

FOOD OUTLETS IN FOOD HALLS – PUB 24

This information brochure describes requirements for food outlets operating in shopping centre food halls and similar situations.

Responsibilities of Tenants

Each food outlet in a shopping centre, food hall or food market which operates as an individual business and which proposes to discharge wastewater to sewer, is required to apply for approval to discharge industrial waste. This discharge normally occurs through fixtures such as sinks and floor wastes that are located within the individual area leased by the business.

When a food outlet does not have any fixtures located within the individual area leased by the business approval is not required.

Each food outlet is responsible for paying all charges associated with the industrial waste application.

Responsibilities of Owners/Landlords

Oversight of Tenants

The owner of the shopping centre or other building housing a food hall or food market is responsible for ensuring that each tenant operating a food outlet business within the building obtains an individual approval from the Water Corporation to discharge industrial waste to sewer.

Section 68 of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909, and the Country Towns Sewerage Act 1948, prescribes penalties on any person who permits another person to use a property sewer without the consent of the Water Corporation.

Shared Wash-Up Facilities

It is common practice for the owners of food halls and buildings containing food outlets to install shared facilities for washing up.

In shared facilities, the waste being discharged comes from a number of different businesses and cannot be attributed to any single tenant.

Consequently, the building owner must obtain approval to discharge industrial waste to sewer from these common facilities.

Shared Pre-Treatment Fixtures

It is also common practice to reduce construction costs of food halls and shopping centres by installing a shared pre-treatment fixture, usually a grease arrestor, to serve a number of outlets.

The installation of a shared pre-treatment fixture can be allowed providing that the building owner agrees in writing to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the shared pre-treatment fixture.

In all other situations, individual tenants are separately permitted, and a written agreement for maintenance and operation of the shared grease arrestor must be obtained before approval is given.

Where such agreement cannot be obtained from the building owner, then individual fixtures will be required for each outlet.

The current version of this information sheet is shown on the Water Corporation Internet site at http://www.watercorporation.com.au/Industrialwaste_index.cfm This version dated 12 February 2008. Further information on the issue detailed on this sheet can be obtained by phoning 13 13 95, or visit your nearest Water Corporation office