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If you are within WES' service areas and have questions about discharge requirements for your business, call for more information on the District's Industrial Pretreatment Program.

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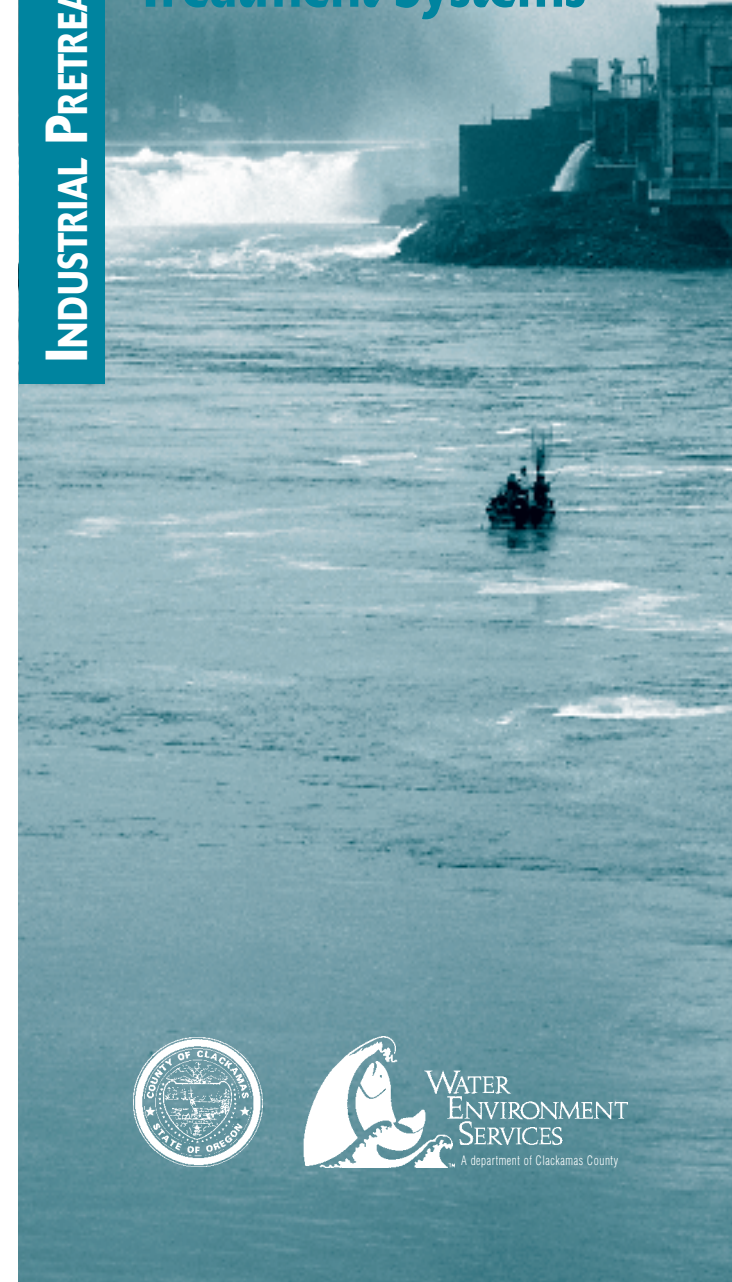
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Sources:
40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 403
www.epa.gov
www.deq.gov

INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

Protection of Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems





The Industrial Pretreatment Program for Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) began in 1983 when it was approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). WES administers the Industrial Pretreatment Program as a way to control the discharge of (and reduce) pollutants from industrial and commercial sources into the municipal sewer systems. WES' efforts, together with some 1,500 similar programs nationwide, make up the National Pretreatment Program.

The U.S. Congress created the national program in 1972 as part of the Clean Water Act to protect the nation's wastewater treatment plants and waterways from discharges of toxic and other pollutants. The term "industrial pretreatment" refers to the requirement that industries discharging excessive pollutants treat their wastewaters before releasing to municipal sewer systems.

The objectives of the National Pretreatment Program are:

- To protect municipal wastewater treatment systems (also known as publicly owned treatment works, or POTWs) from interference caused by industrial wastes.
- To protect the nation's waters from industrial pollutants that pass through POTWs untreated.
- To provide for the beneficial use of POTWs' wastewater biosolids (the solid materials resulting from wastewater treatment) as soil conditioners and fertilizers.



INDUSTRIAL USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All businesses, including industrial, commercial, and governmental establishments, that discharge other than normal sanitary wastewater are technically subject to the requirements of the General Pretreatment Regulations. For most businesses, this simply means that they must not discharge anything that will adversely affect the sewage system or its workers, or the sewage plant biosolids or effluent.

For businesses discharging significant amounts of toxic pollutants, or other pollutants in amounts which may be detrimental to the POTW operations, additional regulation is required. These businesses, classified as Significant Industrial Users (SIUs), are required to obtain industrial wastewater discharge permits from WES in order to discharge to the sewer system. Each permit contains specific limits on industrial pollutants that can be present in an industry's discharge. Permits also contain monitoring and reporting requirements with which the industry must comply if it is to continue discharging to the municipal sewer system.

Which businesses are SIUs? All businesses engaged in operations identified as "categorical" processes by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are automatically considered SIUs. These categorical processes include electroplating, metal finishing, nonferrous metals forming, battery manufacturing, and a number of other activities. EPA has established "categorical standards" for these processes,

which limit the quantities of various pollutants that can be discharged to the sewer. Categorical standards are national standards, and all businesses in the U.S. engaged in the same categorical processes are subject to the same standards.

Other examples of businesses considered SIUs:

- Businesses that discharge 25,000 gallons per day or more of process wastewater; or,
- Contribute 5% or more of the dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the treatment plant are also considered SIUs.

Any business, regardless of size, whose discharge has the potential to adversely affect the operations of the POTW, is considered to be an SIU.

Where necessary to meet applicable pretreatment standards, SIUs are required to install facilities to treat their wastewaters prior to discharge into the municipal sewer system. SIUs must periodically sample and analyze their discharges to determine compliance, and must report the results to the POTW. SIUs who fail to comply with pretreatment standards face the possibility of serious enforcement actions, including monetary penalties and termination of sewer service.

WES SOURCE CONTROL DIVISION PROGRAMS:

Industrial pretreatment, septage receiving, extra-strength billing, restaurant oil and grease reduction, illicit discharge and spill response, industrial and surface water sampling, and temperature monitoring program.