

BCAS FACT SHEET NO. 302 - Hazardous Waste & Compressed Air Condensate

New Regulation for old!

The Special Waste regulations were withdrawn following the introduction of the Hazardous Waste regulations in July 2005. These affect all owners of compressed air systems with respect to the proper disposal of condensate, since this usually contaminated with oil and other potential harmful substances.

Water Resources Act

The UK Water Resources Act states that it is an offence to knowingly permit entry of toxic waste to surface or ground water. It is an offence with a fine of £20,000 or more in a crown court. Here are some frequently asked questions regarding condensate from compressed air systems. See also Fact sheet no.301 for other compressed air equipment items which come under the regulations.

I've installed an oil-water separator; does this mean I can put the treated condensate down the foul sewer?

Yes, but only if the oil content is within the local water authority's specified limit for oil or any other harmful substance. This limit varies with regional authorities, so check first that you comply. In all cases you will need a "consent to discharge" from your local water authority (even if using biodegradable oils). You will need evidence that the discharge is below limits. The water authority may offer the testing service for a fee, or other service providers can be found at www.ukas.org.uk

How should I dispose of the bulk oil content resulting from an oil-water separator?

This bulk oil must be taken away by a company who has either registered as a Hazardous Waste Producer or is a Licensed Waste Carrier.

How do I check that my supplier complies?

Ensure the company who performs this service for you has the correct procedures in place and will ensure legal disposal of your waste oil.

- Ask to see the waste carrier's licence and check the date.
- Ask to see an audit trail of your waste oil for proof that it has been disposed of properly.

Other useful links and information

See the Environment Agency's website for more information, including storage of oil.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/444304/444367/1194965/1194985/>