

Trade Waste

Application for Variation Guidelines



Photo description: Cowes Waste Water Treatment Plant.



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Appendix 7

Application for Variation Guidelines – Trade Waste

1. What is an Application for Variation?

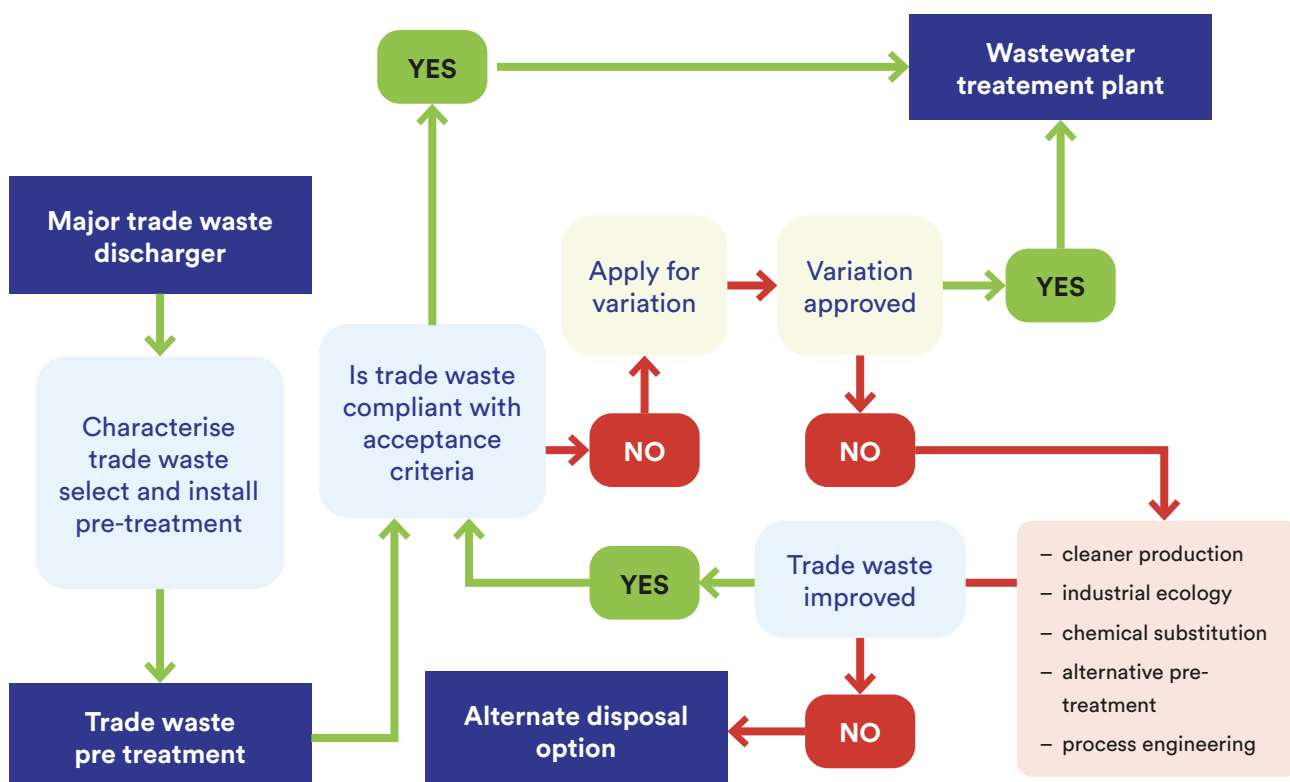
An Application for Variation should be completed whenever a major Trade Waste discharger is unable to reasonably comply with Westernport Water's published Trade Waste acceptance limits.

Westernport Water's (WPW's) Trade Waste acceptance limits clearly stipulate the strength and nature of Trade Waste that can be discharged into its sewage network.

Unlike commercial Trade Waste customers who typically have their Trade Waste pre-treatment prescribed by WPW, major Trade Waste customers are responsible for selecting their own pre-treatment technology. Each major Trade Waste customer must characterise their own Trade Waste and then select an appropriate pre-treatment technology that will enable them to comply with WPW's Trade Waste acceptance limits.

For some major Trade Waste customers, certain factors can inhibit their reasonable ability to meet WPW acceptance criteria. In these situations, WPW or the customer can request that the Application for Variation be completed. The application must address the specific Trade Waste parameter/s that the customer is unable to comply with and include detailed information supporting their case.

Please note that submitting an Application for Variation does not guarantee that a variation will be approved. Any and all Applications for Variation must demonstrate fair and reasonable justification of why the variation should be permitted.



Why are variations needed?

The nature and strength of Trade Waste is vastly different to that of domestic sewage and varies significantly from industry to industry. Water corporations manage the risks associated with discharge from major Trade Waste customers via the application of set Trade Waste acceptance limits.

Whenever a major Trade Waste customer is unable to meet a specific acceptance criteria, WPW must complete a technical assessment to determine if the operational impact and level of risk associated with the variation is acceptable.

The Trade Waste variation process ensures that WPW is meeting its obligations in relation to protecting:

- the health and safety of WPW workers and the general public
- the longevity and performance of the sewage transfer network and associated infrastructure
- the function and performance of receiving wastewater treatment plant
- the viability and quality of recycled water
- the quality and reuse potential of biosolids
- the receiving environment and overall compliance with all EPA licences.

Is my reason for requesting a variations?

There are many valid reasons why a major Trade Waste customer might need to apply for a variation. These reasons will vary significantly according to a customer's specific industry type, location and discharge volume, as well as many other operational variables.

It is important to note that a variation is not a substitution for implementing appropriate Trade Waste pre-treatment. In conjunction with the appropriate pre-treatment technologies, variations provide water corporations with the ability to assist customers in fine tuning 'risk vs cost' while achieving a safe Trade Waste discharge.



What supporting information should I include with my application for variation?

The information you provide as part of your application will essentially form a business case justifying why your variation request should be considered. Like any business case, the type and quality of the information you provide will be critical in your success.

It is important to engage with a WPW Trade Waste Representative before submitting an Application for Variation to obtain guidance around what to supply. Typically you will need to supply:

- National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) sample results supporting Trade Waste quality and classification
- a summary of your current or proposed Trade Waste pre-treatment apparatus
- details surrounding the parameter/s requiring variation, including the variation value you are requesting
- an explanation detailing why you cannot comply with published acceptance criteria
- the proposed duration of the requested variation – will it be a short or long-term value?
- financials supporting any excessive cost justification, if applicable.

What happens after I have submitted my application?

Once you have submitted your fully completed Application for Variation, it will be assigned to a WPW Trade Waste Representative who will commence the assessment process.



Westernport Water allows up to ten working days to process your application and complete the assessment.

If at any stage during this process additional information is required, the Trade Waste Representative will contact you and the assessment process will be paused.

CONTACT

For more information on Westernport Water's Trade Waste requirements please visit www.westernportwater.com.au, or alternatively contact us on 1300 720 711 and speak to a member of our Trade Waste Team.

