

MCCP130 – Trade Effluent Documentation Changes

Annex 4 – Additional information for explanatory purposes - Trade Effluent logical meter scenarios

1. Introduction

This is a briefing note for explanatory purposes only and is not intended to be added to market documentation.

There are a number of Trade Effluent sites where it is not possible to compute volumes via the standard mechanism of deducting allowances from the metered water supplied to the site or where an effluent meter cannot be installed, at least at this time. There are three categories of sites which are described further below. In each of these scenarios a logical meter has been created at the CMA as a mechanism to enter the necessary volumes.

2. Contaminated Run-off and Leachate (PCONT)

This group of sites discharge contaminated leachate or run-off to sewer (e.g. landfill sites) where it is not feasible to install an effluent meter. Because the waste has not arisen from the water supplied to the premises (often low volumes to supply only basic office facilities), it is not possible to calculate the effluent volumes from the metered water consumption. Where possible effluent meters are being fitted but in many cases there are challenges with the physical configuration of the site, which is why this has not been done to date.

On sites where the discharge arises from rainfall, volumes are calculated based on Met Office rainfall data from the nearest weather station and the hard-standing surface area of the site.

On some landfill sites, rainfall data cannot be used as the site may have been capped, preventing the influx of any further surface water, and the volumes will reflect continuing leachate from the waste contained beneath the cap. In these cases an external source of data is used where possible to quantify the volumes such as independent consultant's assessments or customer records regarding the hours of operation of pumps whose throughput is known. Otherwise the estimation methodology used in the consent application is reviewed periodically to check that the assumptions remain appropriate.

In all cases the volumes will be reviewed annually or as deemed necessary and recorded by Scottish Water in the same way as allowances. The volumes to be used will be notified in writing to the registered Licensed Provider in order that they are able to submit volumes to the CMA. A logical meter has been created in the Central Systems to reflect the volumes discharged.

Whilst the number is expected to reduce as effluent meters are installed where feasible, it is likely that some will remain in this category on a long term basis.

3. Delayed Release (PDR)

This category of premises discharge effluent periodically from a tank and the customer retains records of the volume of effluent in the tank and frequency of discharge. Such arrangements can vary from electronic records in their production systems showing the volume discharged each time the tank is emptied to tanks whose volume is known and where the frequency of emptying is recorded by the customer.

These records represent a more accurate record of waste discharged than can be derived by the standard methodology of deducting allowances from water consumption. In some cases it

may be possible to install an effluent meter although this will involve cost for the customer, sometimes considerable, and may not be required for consent management purposes.

A logical meter has been created in the Central Systems to reflect the volumes discharged which will be derived from customer records by a methodology agreed by Scottish Water with the customer and notified to the Licensed Provider.

4. Interim Fixed Volumes (PFI)

This category related to sites where a logical meter has been created in the Central Systems with a fixed volume, generally to reflect historical arrangements pending changes to the consent or installation of an effluent meter.

One group of sites have multiple Discharge Points and the assumed volume has been used historically to split the total volumes at the premises (which is based on metered water supplied) between the Discharge Points. In these instances the consent is being reviewed to consolidate onto a single Discharge Point for billing purposes.

A further group of sites relate to low volume discharges which have historically been estimated, often because waste is imported onto the site. In these instances, an effluent meter will be installed or the consent has already been terminated since 1 April (in which case the purpose of the logical meter is to reflect volumes between 1 April and consent termination) or the premises will move to Letter of Authorisation due to the low volumes involved.

Only one site is expected to be an enduring arrangement and relates to a very low volume discharge point on a high volume site with multiple Discharge Points, the remainder of which all have effluent meters installed. As the volume is very low it unlikely to be feasible to install an effluent meter given that these meters typically need a relatively steady flow to operate correctly. The discharge cannot be accurately calculated on the basis on the water into the site given the very low effluent volume relative to water consumption and the presence of the other discharge points and effluent meters at the site.

The volume at the final discharge point has historically been calculated based on a % of annual production data and it is intended that this methodology would continue in this case.