

# Guidance for Pollution Prevention

## Use and design of oil separators in surface water drainage systems: GPP 3

Version 1 March 2022

This guidance has been produced by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). For Northern Ireland and Scotland this document provides guidance on environmental legislation. These guidelines are not endorsed by the Environment Agency as regulatory guidance in England. **Note: The guidance for Wales is currently being reviewed and will be updated shortly.**

For guidance on environmental regulations in England go to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).  
To find the relevant regulations visit [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents are based on relevant legislation and reflect current good practice. Following this guidance will help you manage the environmental responsibilities to prevent pollution and comply with the law.

If you cause pollution or allow it to occur, you will be committing a criminal offence. Following these guidelines will help you reduce the likelihood of a pollution incident. If one does occur contact the environmental regulator immediately on the relevant incident hotline number: In Northern Ireland and Scotland call **0800 80 70 60**, in Wales call **0300 065 3000**.

# Contents

Section 1: Introduction .....	4
1.1 What are oil separators? .....	4
1.2 Legal requirements .....	4
Section 2: Where are they used? .....	6
2.1 Risk of oil spills .....	6
2.2 Oil separators and SuDS .....	6
2.2.1 Low risk sites .....	6
2.2.2 Higher risk sites .....	6
2.2.3 Existing or historic sites .....	6
2.3 Discharges to the foul sewer .....	7
2.4 Discharges to surface water, groundwater or land .....	7
2.5 Discharges from high-risk sites .....	7
Section 3: Choose the right type of separator .....	8
Section 4: Types of oil separators .....	10
4.1 Classes of oil separators .....	10
4.2 Full Retention Separators .....	10
4.3 Bypass Separators .....	11
4.4 Forecourt .....	11
4.5 Closure devices and alarms .....	12
4.5.1 Closure Devices .....	12
4.5.2 Automatic Warning Devices/Alarm Systems .....	12
Section 5: Separator size .....	13
5.1 Nominal size .....	13
5.2 Oil Storage Capacity .....	13
5.3 Minimum Size .....	13
Section 6: Installation and labelling .....	14
6.1 Installation .....	14

6.2 Labelling .....	14
Section 7: Maintenance and use .....	15
Section 8: Waste management .....	16
8.1 Duty of Care for waste .....	16
8.2 Hazardous/special waste .....	16
Section 9: Incident response .....	17
References .....	18
Further information .....	20

## Section 1: Introduction

### 1.1 What are oil separators?

Oil separators (also known as oil interceptors) are fitted to surface water drainage systems to prevent pollution from oils and to prevent disruption to sewage treatment works. They are designed to separate the oil from the water, and to collect the oil for removal.

**To be effective, oil separators need to be correctly designed, installed and maintained.**

They can be installed at the point where potentially contaminated water leaves a site, and protect water courses, groundwater, land, SuDS or the sewer system. They are often used to contain leaks from vehicles and plant, and where oils are handled and accidental spills are possible.

### 1.2 Legal requirements

Formal approval may be required when carrying out certain works or activities. It can take up to four months to process an application for formal approval, it is therefore important you contact the environmental regulator early on in the project.

There are laws that protect land, water, air, wildlife and people from pollution. If you cause pollution you will be committing an offence. Penalties include fines, imprisonment, Fixed Penalty Notices, stopwork notices or equivalent, and having to pay clean-up costs, along with damage to your reputation.

The Legal requirements are different throughout the United Kingdom (UK) (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). If you are located in **Scotland** or **Northern Ireland**, you can find information on your legal environmental obligations by visiting the NetRegs website. In **Wales** guidance on regulations can be found on the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) website (see **Further information**).

### 1.3 Pollution Prevention

It is important to understand how activities could affect the environment and cause pollution. Think about what pollution linkages there are (see Figure 1.).



**Figure 1: Example of a pollution linkage using the source > pathway > receptor model.** NOTE: Groundwater is both a pathway and a receptor.

The site and activities will only cause a risk to the environment or people if you have all three parts of the pollutant linkage present i.e. a source, a pathway and a receptor. You should put in place measures to prevent or minimise or mitigate the effects of any risks and thereby break the pollutant linkages between these three. By doing this, you can identify how to prevent or reduce

the likelihood of pollution and reduce the impact of any risks that may occur. It is important that you fully understand the local drainage network as pollution is often caused by mistaking a surface water drain for a foul/combined sewer. Contact your local water company for advice on this.

If you cause pollution you will be responsible for the clean-up cost. This can be expensive and time consuming particularly if groundwater has become contaminated. There may be additional costs associated with recovering the cost for the environmental regulator's response (in line with the Polluter Pays Principle), you may receive fines through the criminal courts or civil claims and you may experience a reputational cost i.e. loss of future work.

Following this Guidance for Pollution Prevention will help you reduce the likelihood of an incident. However, if one does occur contact the environmental regulator immediately on the relevant Incident Hotline number. A rapid response to incidents will help to minimise the environmental impact and could reduce the overall costs.

For more information refer to **Section 9**.

## Section 2: Where are they used?

### 2.1 Risk of oil spills

Anywhere there is a risk of oil entering surface waters or sewers from rainfall runoff.

- Low risk sites such as:
  - car parks, typically larger than 800m<sup>2</sup> in area or for 50 or more car parking spaces
  - smaller car parks discharging to a sensitive environment
  - roads
- High risk sites: such as:
  - vehicle maintenance areas
  - industrial sites where oil is stored or used
- Petrol station forecourts or vehicle refuelling sites.
- Any other site where there is a risk of oil contamination.

### 2.2 Oil separators and SuDS

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can be used to manage runoff from your site and can reduce the overall impact of your site on the environment. As well as dealing with pollution carried in the runoff, they also provide flood mitigation by slowing the flow of water from a built up site. If well designed they can also improve biodiversity and create urban greenspace. For Low risk sites SuDs provide an alternative to the installation of an oil separator.

On High risk sites they can provide further treatment below an oil separator. SuDs should be considered on all sites. In **Scotland** and **Wales** all new developments must include SuDS to protect the water environment. In **Scotland**, single dwellings, and those that drain to coastal waters, are excluded. (See Reference 1).

#### 2.2.1 Low risk sites

Techniques such as permeable surfaces, filter strips, or infiltration trenches can control pollution close to source. These are particularly suited to treatment of runoff from low risk areas, such as roofs, car parks and roads. They will prevent silt leaving the site, and small amounts of oil will be broken down by natural processes.

#### 2.2.2 Higher risk sites

For areas where there is a higher risk of spills or leaks, the SuDS might need to have more components, to hold back the flow for a longer period of time to allow the settlement and breakdown of pollutants. Swales and constructed ponds and wetlands might be necessary. If there is a high risk of oil contamination, an oil separator can be used as the first stage of the treatment process.

For more information see Reference 1 SuDS.

#### 2.2.3 Existing or historic sites

In many cases sites change ownership and there is often little information available on the size, type, condition or even existence of separators.

If you are a new owner or tenant of a site, you should establish Baseline Asset information to confirm that any separator/s present on site are fit for purpose and adequately sized and type for the current activities on site.

Existing sites may move site boundaries, change or move processes on site. You should re-assess the sites separator requirement when any significant changes are undertaken to ensure adequate protection is provided.

### 2.3 Discharges to the foul sewer

Contact your sewerage provider. If your surface water drainage goes into a foul or combined sewer, you might need to install an oil separator if there is a risk of oil entering the sewer system from surface water runoff. You will require a trade effluent consent from your sewerage provider, and this might include the installation of an oil separator.

See Reference 2 Trade effluent consents.

### 2.4 Discharges to surface water, groundwater or land.

Depending on the type of discharge, and the activities or scale of the drainage, you might require a permit, consent or authorisation from your environmental regulator.

You must speak to your environmental regulator if you plan to discharge runoff to:

- surface water drains
- a watercourse or any surface water
- the ground/groundwater

You might require an authorisation to do this. In **Northern Ireland** any discharge from an oil separator requires consent. An authorisation is not automatic, and if the discharge is allowed there could be strict controls on the level of polluting substances, such as oil, that can be discharged.

Any discharge to surface water will require a Class 1 separator (see **Section 4.1**)

The authorisation required could be:

- In **Northern Ireland** a [discharge consent](#)
- In **Scotland** [an authorisation under CAR](#)
- In **Wales** an [environmental permit](#)

See Reference 3 Authorisations for discharges.

### 2.5 Discharges from high-risk sites

Drainage from areas such as scrapyards, storage and handling areas for chemicals (solvents, acids etc), and washing bays are likely to be contaminated with substances other than oil and should normally drain to the foul sewer with the approval of the sewer provider.

The local sewer provider might require the discharge to have a separator and you must consult them. Discharge from such areas is not suitable for drainage to surface water drains, a watercourse or to the ground.

**Don't allow drainage that contains detergents to enter an oil separator that discharges to surface water, because the detergents prevent the separator from working properly.**

For general guidance on preventing pollution from your site, see Reference 4 GPPs.

## Section 3: Choose the right type of separator

Use the flow chart to help you select the appropriate system for your site. More than one separator might be required on larger sites or a site with many activities. You will need to consider the local circumstances and risk factors including:

- the discharge point of your proposed separator
- the environmental sensitivity of your location
- activities on your site

We advise that SuDS should be incorporated into the surface water drainage whenever possible, and in **Scotland** and **Wales** this is a legal requirement for new developments. This may remove the requirement for an oil separator, if the surface water leaving your site is only very lightly contaminated.

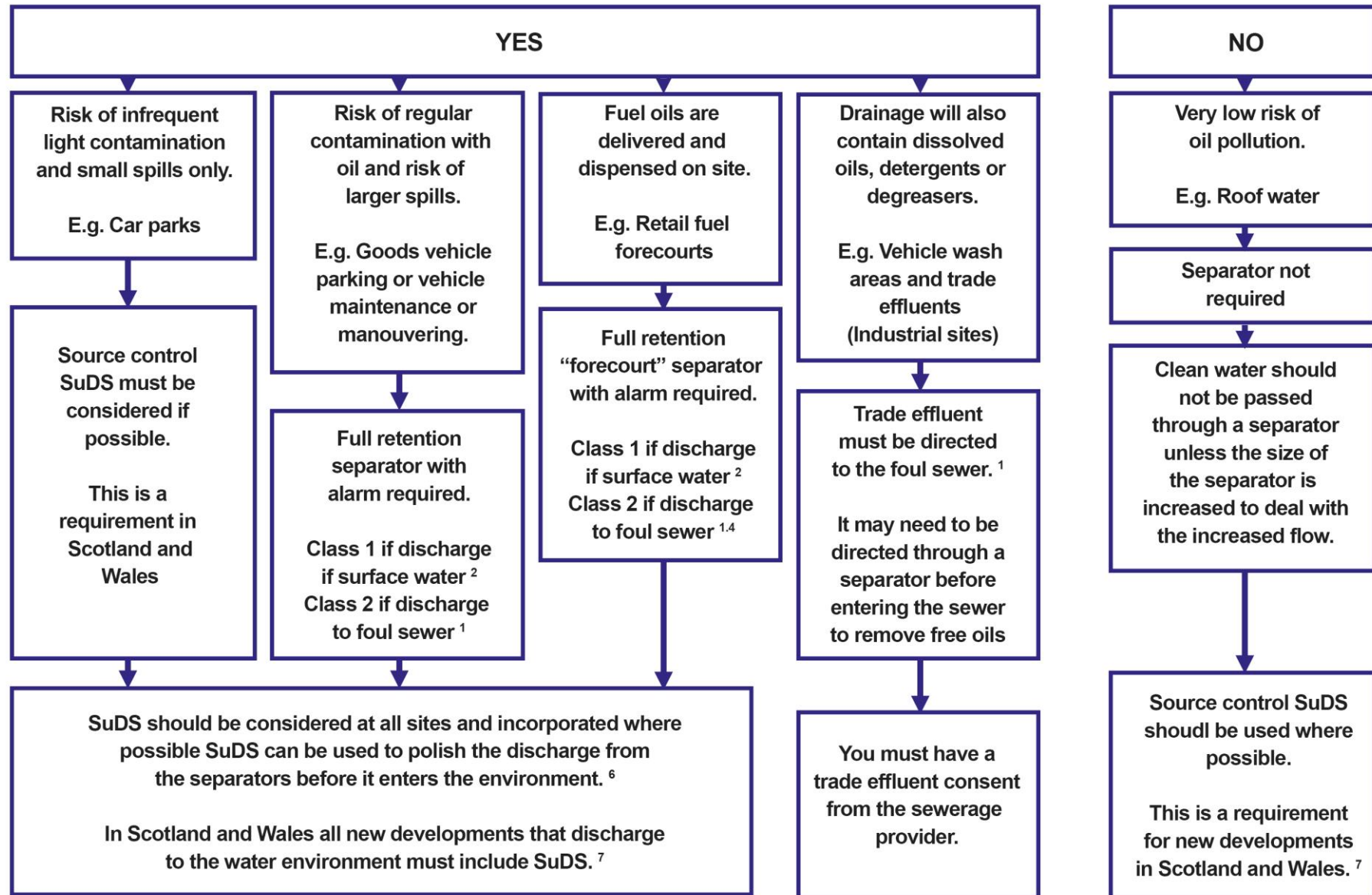
See the flowchart on the following page.

### Notes to accompany the flowchart

1. You must seek prior permission from your local sewer provider before you decide which separator to install and before you make any discharge to a foul sewer.
2. You must seek prior permission from your environmental regulator before you decide which separator to install. Check before you make any discharge to surface or groundwater.
3. In this case, if it is considered that there is a low risk of pollution a source control SuDS scheme may be appropriate.
4. In certain circumstances, the sewer provider may require a Class 1 separator for discharges to sewer to prevent explosive atmospheres from being generated.
5. Drainage from higher risk areas such as vehicle maintenance yards and goods vehicle parking areas should be connected through an oil separator to the foul sewer, in preference to surface water.
6. In certain circumstances, a separator may be one of the devices used in the SuDS scheme. Ask your environmental regulator for advice.
7. In Scotland all new developments must include SuDS with the exception of single dwellings and those that drain to coastal waters. All new Welsh developments of more than 1 dwelling house or where the construction area is 100m<sup>2</sup> or more require SuDS for surface water. Developers must gain approval of their drainage scheme from a SuDS Approval Body (SABs) before construction can begin.



## Is there a risk of oil contaminating the drainage from the site?



## Section 4: Types of oil separators

The UK has adopted a two-part European Standard (BS EN 858-1:2002 and BS EN 858-2:2003) for the design, use, selection, installation, operation and maintenance of prefabricated oil separators. You must ensure that you comply with these standards if you fit an oil separator.

See Reference 5 (BS EN 858-1 2002 and BS EN 858-2 2003).

BS EN 858 refers to two 'classes' of separator, based on performance under standard test conditions.

### 4.1 Classes of oil separators

#### Class 1 separators

*Class 1 separators* are designed to achieve a discharge concentration of less than 5 mg/litre of oil under standard test conditions. These separators are required for discharges to surface water drains and the water environment. Many Class 1 separators contain coalescing devices, which draw the oil droplets together and facilitate the separation.

#### Class 2 separators

*Class 2 separators* are designed to achieve a discharge concentration of less than 100 mg/litre of oil under standard test conditions. They are suitable for dealing with discharges where a lower quality requirement applies such as discharges to the foul sewer (but check first with your sewer provider).

**Note:** These oil concentration limits of 5mg/litre and 100 mg/litre are what the separators can achieve under standardised test conditions. If properly maintained they should achieve close to these standards in real world situations.

Even these levels of oil pollution could be too high if the discharge is to an environmentally sensitive area. In these cases additional treatment would be necessary.

Class 1 and Class 2 separators can be designed as the types listed below.

### 4.2 Full Retention Separators

Full retention separators treat the full flow that can be delivered by the drainage system. The 'full flow' is normally equivalent to the flow generated by a rainfall intensity of 65 mm/hour falling across the area being drained.

Clean surface water, for example from roofs, should enter the surface water drain below the oil separator, to reduce the volume of water being treated.

Full retention separators are used where there is a risk of regular contamination with oil and a foreseeable risk of significant spillages e.g. vehicle maintenance areas and retail fuel forecourts.

You need to consider the flow rates of potential spillages delivered to the separator from the drainage system. The oil storage volume of the separator needs to be sufficient to retain the entire spillage. See **Section 11** for more information about preparing for emergencies.

On large sites, some short-term storage upstream of the separator in a buffer tank might be an acceptable means of limiting the flow rate and the size of separator needed. Any surface water

stored cannot be pumped through the separator unless the separator is specifically designed to receive pumped inflows and a low-shear, non-emulsifying pump is used.

### 4.3 Bypass Separators

Bypass separators fully treat all flows, for the area served, generated by rainfall rates of up to 6.5 mm/hour. This covers most rainfall events. Flows above this rate are allowed to bypass the separator.

These separators are used when it is considered an acceptable risk not to provide full treatment for high flows, e.g. where only small spillages can occur and the risk of spillage is small such as on car parks.

In cases where a large spillage might occur, it is not acceptable to use a by-pass separator. The only exception to this is a major trunk road where the size and type of spillage is impossible to foresee. On trunk roads, the surface area drained can make it impractical to provide a full retention separator. For major trunk roads a SuDS approach incorporating a number of SuDS techniques is likely to be more appropriate.

On sites where high levels of silt are likely to enter the separator, the build-up of silt must not be allowed to compromise the operation of either the separator or the by-pass device. On such sites (e.g. major trunk roads and quarries) an adequately sized silt separation chamber should be installed upstream of the separator. You will also need to put in place appropriate management to monitor the situation and remove the silt when necessary systems (see **Section 4.5.2 Alarm systems**). The use of SuDS techniques can minimise the amount of silt in the surface water run-off.

### 4.4 Forecourt

This document uses the term 'forecourt' to refer to all forms of liquid-fuel dispensing outlets, both retail and non-retail, including those where only diesel is dispensed. A forecourt separator must be a 'full retention' separator, large enough to serve the catchment area of the site and have a sufficient oil storage volume to retain any foreseeable spillages.

It is important to install a forecourt separator of an appropriate size. On a forecourt where tanker deliveries are received, a separator with an oil storage capacity of 7,600 litres (typical compartment size of tankers) will meet the requirements of BS EN 858-2, clause 4.3.6. If a smaller unit is proposed, the size should be determined by undertaking a risk assessment incorporating catchment size, potential spillages during delivery, and other risks such as safety issues. If the compartment size of the tanker that delivers to your site is greater than 7,600 litres your separator should be sized accordingly.

For detailed information on the design of fuel dispensing forecourts see Reference 6.

Technical advice is based on **BS EN 858-1 2002** and **BS EN 858-2 2003**.

**BS EN 858-1 2002 is currently under review. It deals with "Principles of product design, performance and testing, marking and quality control".**

**BS EN 858-2 2003 (not being reviewed) Deals with "Selection of nominal size, installation, operation and maintenance" Much of the guidance is based on this standard.**

## 4.5 Closure devices and alarms

### 4.5.1 Closure Devices

If too much oil is allowed to accumulate inside a separator it will not work effectively, and oil will escape. To avoid this, **full retention separators** must be provided with an **automatic closure device**. This will prevent flow passing through the separator when the quantity of oil in the separator exceeds the oil storage volume. Your equipment's maintenance schedule will include regular testing of the automatic closure device.

Also, during emptying or maintenance the separator should be isolated to prevent the escape of waste oil. Open all isolation valves when the operation is complete.

Do not fit automatic closure devices to bypass separators unless they have been designed specifically to operate on such separators.

If the automatic closure device is activated, the operator should be alerted by a high-level alarm so that immediate maintenance can be carried out.

### 4.5.2 Automatic Warning Devices/Alarm Systems

Separators must have a system to provide **visual and audible warning** (if necessary to a remotely located supervisory point) when the level of oil reaches 90 per cent of the oil storage volume under static liquid level conditions.

This automatic warning device tells the operator that the separator is in need of immediate emptying for it to continue to work effectively.

**Equipment will have documentation that will state when and how maintenance should be carried out. Regular maintenance and testing of equipment is essential.**

It is recommended that you install a silt level alarm in your separator to alert you to the build-up of excessive levels of silt. This could prevent your separator from working properly.

It is often possible to fit oil and silt alarms to an existing separator. Silt alarms are most useful on sites where high volumes of silt are likely to enter the separator, such as quarries, builder's yards and major trunk roads.

You can also fit a device that will provide the operator with a reminder of when routine maintenance needs to be carried out. This will ensure that your separator is working effectively at all times.

Any electrical device used within a separator, or used to monitor sensors placed within a separator, must be safe and certified to a suitable explosion protection standard. The devices must be located within a safe area and conform to the requirements of BS EN 60079-10-1: 2015.

Always use qualified technicians who are familiar with the installation, calibration and servicing of equipment.

## Section 5: Separator size

### 5.1 Nominal size

All separators that comply with the European Standard will have been given a nominal size (NS) based on a standard test procedure.

- Full retention separators are referred to as NS
- Bypass separators are referred to as NSB

The nominal size of a full retention separator that is required for a catchment area (A) is obtained using the following formula:

$$NS = 0.018 \times A \text{ (in } m^2\text{)}$$

For a bypass separator, the formula is:

$$NSB = 0.0018 \times A \text{ (in } m^2\text{)}$$

In addition, capacity for silt storage (C) must be provided for all separators – either as an integral part of the separator or as a separate upstream unit – according to the following:

$$C \text{ (in litres)} = NS \times 100 \text{ or } C \text{ (in litres)} = NSB \times 100$$

Silt capacity for a bypass separator must be provided either upstream of the separator or in the bypass weir chamber, and not in the main oil separating chamber.

Separators must be designed such that when the silt chamber or silt area of the separator is full of silt, this should not affect the operation of the separator, the skim pipe or the by-pass device.

The separator may not work to full capacity when full of silt, so it should be emptied as soon as possible. Fitting an alarm system will warn you when maintenance is needed.

### 5.2 Oil Storage Capacity

The oil storage capacity is defined as the volume of separated oil that can be stored in the separator without any of the stored oil entering the inlet or outlet of the separator.

The oil storage volume (V) is given by the following:

$$V \text{ (in litres)} = NS \times 10 \text{ or } V \text{ (in litres)} = NSB \times 15$$

On sites where significant oil spillages are foreseeable, make sure the oil storage capacity is sufficient to retain any such spillage, and it might be necessary to install a separator larger than that identified in **Section 5.1**.

### 5.3 Minimum Size

The minimum working capacity (which excludes any provision for silt deposition) of a separator should be 1,000 litres; though for forecourts, it is likely that risk assessment will indicate the need for a larger separator. For bypass separators, the minimum capacity is defined as the working capacity of the oil separating chamber only.

## Section 6: Installation and labelling

### 6.1 Installation

Any clean water should be discharged downstream of the separator. If any clean water is drained through your separator, you will need to consider this extra water volume when selecting the separator type and size.

If the discharge for the separator is subject to the controls of a permit to discharge granted by your environmental regulator, a sampling chamber will be required downstream of the separator. This is to allow representative samples to be taken.

Provide separators with sufficient access points to allow for the inspection and cleaning of all internal chambers.

Keep access to the separator clear and do not use this area for storage.

If the separator is installed to retain flammable liquids, provide appropriate ventilation.

### 6.2 Labelling

Provide separators with a visible and durable label that can be read after installation.

It needs to contain the following information:

- Manufacturer's reference number and year of manufacture
- Oil storage capacity
- Volume of separator
- Bypass/full retention
- Silt storage capacity
- Unique identifier for the design of separator (name or number)
- Oil level warning device details
- Depth of oil storage
- Class of separator
- Closure device details
- Nominal size

Mark the position of all separators clearly on all drainage plans and identify the separator on the ground by marking the manhole cover '**Separator**'.

## Section 7: Maintenance and use

To prevent pollution and minimise your costs, you need to manage your separator effectively.

To make this easy, all parts of the separator that have to be regularly maintained must be accessible at all times.

Every six months, or in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, experienced personnel should:

- Physically inspect the integrity of the separator and all mechanical parts
- Assess the depth of accumulated oil and silt
- Service all electrical equipment such as alarms and separator management systems
- Check the condition of any coalescing device and replace it if necessary
- Clean the sampling shaft if required.

Some heavily used or high-risk sites might require more frequent inspections.

Keep a detailed log of when the separator is inspected, maintained, emptied and serviced. Also record specific events relating to the separator system such as cleaning, repairs, accidents and incidents. These records may be useful to demonstrate compliance with any authorisations or related authorisations.

All sites should empty their separator as soon as a significant quantity of oil and/or silt has built up. The retained waste, including the silt, must be removed and the separator must be refilled with clean water before being put back into service. This will prevent damage and to prevent oil passing through it.

In addition to normal emptying of the separator, it will also need to be emptied right away if oil or silt levels exceed 90 per cent of the storage volume of the separator and the alarm is activated (see **Section 4.5.2**). When the oil or silt reaches this level or after a spillage, employ a registered waste removal company to empty the separator (see **Section 9** for information about waste management). For all waste removal operations, you must make sure that the waste removal company has experience in emptying separators. It is important that they do not allow any of the contents to escape from the outlet during emptying.

Every five years it is recommended that separators be emptied and given a general inspection to test the integrity and performance of the system. The separator must be refilled with clean water following such an inspection.

Information on separator maintenance is in Part 2 of the British Standard (Reference 5).



## Section 8: Waste management

### 8.1 Duty of Care for waste

If you produce, import or arrange for waste to be disposed of, you have a legal responsibility to make sure it's stored, transported, kept, treated and/or disposed of without harming the environment. This is called your Duty of Care.

Under the Duty of Care legislation (see Reference 7) you have a legal duty to make sure any waste you produce does not escape from your control. Waste must be transferred to an authorised, registered or exempt waste carrier or appropriately authorised waste site. It must be accompanied by a full description of the waste and a Waste Transfer Note and be disposed of lawfully. You should check on the proposed destination and ensure the site is authorised to receive the waste.

In **Scotland** and **Northern Ireland** you must separate dry recyclable materials such as paper, card, glass, metals and plastics. These must be collected separately from other wastes and managed in such a manner as to allow high quality recycling.

In **Northern Ireland** and **Scotland** the NetRegs website ([www.netregs.org.uk](http://www.netregs.org.uk)) provides information on waste legislation and how you can comply with it.

You can contact the local office of your environmental regulator for advice or visit the waste sections of the environmental regulators' websites. See Reference 9.

### 8.2 Hazardous/special waste

Some types of waste, called 'hazardous wastes' or in **Scotland**, 'special wastes', such as oily wastes, batteries, solvents and solvent-based products are harmful to human health or to the environment.

When dealing with hazardous/special wastes:

- you must store, handle and dispose of these differently to non-hazardous wastes
- you must not mix different types of hazardous or special wastes together
- if you mix hazardous or special wastes with non-hazardous wastes then you must
- consider everything as hazardous or special waste
- the movement of hazardous/special wastes must be accompanied by a consignment note. Everyone involved in the transfer of the waste, including your environmental regulator, must keep copies of the consignment notes for proof of legal disposal.

In **Wales** any premises that produces less than 500 kg of hazardous waste in a 12-month period is exempt from registering. However hazardous waste moved from an exempt premises must still be covered by a Hazardous Waste Consignment Note. The unique Consignment Note code will show that the waste has come from an exempt premises.

For guidance on the handling, storage and consignment of hazardous/special waste see Reference 8.

Detailed guidance on how to comply with the regulations governing waste handling, storage and disposal is given in GPP 8 safe storage and disposal of waste oil Reference 4.



## Section 9: Incident response

### Incident Hotline Numbers:

In **Scotland, Northern Ireland and England** call:

**0800 80 70 60**

(24 hour service)

In **Wales** call:

**0300 065 3000**

(24 hour service; Press 1 for Welsh, 2 for English)

You should immediately report any environmental incidents by calling the Incident Hotline for your country.

Incidents can include spillages (e.g. from oils and chemicals), contaminated surface water run-off, flooding, riverbed disturbance, damage to underground services, damage to habitats and poor waste disposal and storage. If in doubt, report it.

You should produce an Incident Response Plan as part of the environmental impact management of your work. Include the following:

- site risks
- list of key external and internal contacts (include your environmental regulator, Local Authority, Fire Service)
- reporting procedures
- site plan including drainage and location of storage/refuelling areas
- list of stored materials
- details of local environmental sensitivities e.g. abstractors, high amenity areas and fish farms
- location of spill equipment
- procedures for spill containment and remediation

Train your staff and contractors in the use of spill equipment and how to manage and dispose of waste materials legally.

If you are using oils and chemicals in close proximity to the water environment, store a suitable spill kit or absorbent materials nearby. Provide appropriate temporary storage for any oils and chemicals. Contain all spillages using absorbents such as sand, soil or commercially available booms or pads and notify the environmental regulator immediately, using the Incident Hotline numbers above.

## References

### Reference 1: SuDS

- NetRegs: SuDS <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/water/sustainable-drainage-systems-SuDS/>
- CIRIA: Susdrain <https://www.susdrain.org/>
- DAERA – NI: Managing stormwater - SuDS <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/managing-stormwater-strategy-promoting-use-sustainable-drainage-systems-within-northern>
- SEPA: SuDS <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/diffuse-pollution/diffuse-pollution-in-the-urban-environment/>
- Natural Resources Wales: SuDS <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/advice-for-developers/sustainable-drainage-systems-suds/?lang=en>

### Reference 2: Trade effluent consent for discharge to sewer

- Trade effluent consents in Northern Ireland  
(<https://www.niwater.com/siteFiles/resources/pdf/WaterCharges/201718/TE31-APPLICATIONPACK.pdf> )
- Trade effluent consents in Scotland  
(<https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/business-and-developers/byelaws-and-trade-effluent/trade-effluent/consent>)
- Trade effluents consents in Wales  
(<https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/Business/Trade-Effluent/Trade-Effluent-Consents.aspx> )

### Reference 3: Authorisations, consents and permits to discharge to watercourses, groundwater, land.

- [DAERA: Discharge consents](#)
- [SEPA: Water authorisations](#)
- [NRW: Discharges to surface water and groundwater:](#)

### Reference 4 GPPs

NetRegs: GPPs <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/>

Includes:

- GPP2: Above ground storage tanks
- GPP8 Safe storage and disposal of used oils
- GPP21 Pollution incident response planning

### Reference 5 (BS EN 858-1 2002 and BS EN 858-2 2003)

BS EN 858-1 2002. Separator systems for light liquids (e.g. oil and petrol). Principles of product design, performance and testing, marking and quality control.

<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=00000000030131162>

BS EN 858-2 2003. Separator systems for light liquids (e.g. oil and petrol). Selection of nominal size, installation, operation and maintenance.

<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=00000000030049895>

#### **Reference 6** Fuel dispensing forecourts

Energy Institute: The Blue Book – Design, construction, modification, maintenance and decommissioning of filling stations. <https://publishing.energyinst.org/topics/petroleum-product-storage-and-distribution/filling-stations/design,-construction,-modification,-maintenance-and-decommissioning-of-filling-stations-known-as-the-blue-book>

APEA: The Association of Petroleum and Explosives Administration. The Blue Book – Design, construction, modification, maintenance and decommissioning of filling stations

<https://apea.org.uk/pages/publications/apea-publications>

#### **Reference 7:** Duty of Care for waste

- Northern Ireland: Waste Management The Duty of Care – A Code of Practice. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/waste-management-duty-care-code-practice>
- Scotland: Scottish Government - Duty of Care – A code of practice <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2012/10/2631>
- Wales: GOV.UK Waste duty of care code of practice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-duty-of-care-code-of-practice>

#### **Reference 8:** Wales: Register as a producer of hazardous waste

Natural Resources Wales: Register or renew as a hazardous waste producer

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/waste-permitting/register-or-renew-as-a-hazardous-waste-producer/?lang=en>

#### **Reference 9:** Waste information from environmental regulators

- DAERA – NI: Waste <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/waste>
- DAERA – NI: Hazardous waste <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/hazardous-waste>
- SEPA: Waste <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/waste/>
- Natural Resources Wales: Waste Management: <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/waste-management/?lang=en>

#### **Reference 10:** Pollution Incident Response Plans

GPP 21: Pollution Incident Response Planning <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/>

## Further information

For information about environmental compliance, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit [www.netregs.org.uk](http://www.netregs.org.uk).

You can view guidance on environmental regulations online at [www.netregs.org.uk](http://www.netregs.org.uk) (for businesses in Scotland and Northern Ireland) and at <http://naturalresources.Wales> (for businesses in Wales).

This guidance is issued by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

This document is available at [www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-preventionguidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/](http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-preventionguidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/).

First published March 2022.

## Useful contacts

**Incident/Pollution hotline:** Northern Ireland, Scotland and England

**0800 80 70 60** (24-hour service)

**Emergency hotline - Wales**

**0300 065 3000** (24-hour service; press 1 for Welsh, 2 for English)

**Floodline –** Wales, Scotland and England

**0845 988 1188**

**Flooding incident line -** Northern Ireland

**0300 200 0100**

### Natural Resources Wales

### Scottish Environment Protection Agency

### Northern Ireland Environment Agency

[www.naturalresourcesWales.gov.uk](http://www.naturalresourcesWales.gov.uk)

[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Head Office (Ty Cambria)  
29 Newport Road  
Cardiff  
CF24 0TP

Corporate Office  
Strathallan House  
The Castle Business Park  
Stirling  
FK9 4TZ

Head Office  
Klondyke Building  
Cromac Avenue  
Gasworks Business Park  
Malone Lower  
Belfast  
BTZ 2JA

Tel: 0300 065 3000 (Mon – Fri,  
9am- 5pm)

Tel: 03000 99 66 99

Tel: 0300 200 7856

[enquiries@naturalresourcesWales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourcesWales.gov.uk)

[www.sepa.org.uk/contact](http://www.sepa.org.uk/contact)

[nieainfo@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:nieainfo@daera-ni.gov.uk)