

PHOTO PROCESSING OPERATIONS

Introduction

Typical substances used in photo processing include fixers, bleach fixers, developers, stabilizers, stop baths, cleaners and rinse water. Due to the chemical constituents in the substances (used and unused), discharges of the substances to the sewer is prohibited. Used fixers typically contain levels of silver, selenium and chromium, which exceed the City of Tempe 's Discharge Limitations. As a result, discharges of used and unused fixers, developers, stop baths and cleaners to the sewer are a violation of City of Tempe 's Sewer System Discharge Limitations.

Arizona State University (ASU) photo processing operations; including X-ray, must adhere to these management practices help ensure the safe management of the environment in a responsible manner and promote compliance with applicable City of Tempe Sewer System Discharge Limitations .

Applicable ASU Policy

- EHS 401 - Hazardous Waste Management

Applicable ASU Guideline

- EHS Hazardous Waste Management Guidance Documents

Applicable Regulation

- City of Tempe Sewer Discharge Regulations

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

The following provides a summary of best management practices associated with photo processing operations.

Silver Bearing Wastes

Include, but are not limited to, fixer, bleach-fix, stabilizers and functionally similar solutions. Due to silver content, the waste exceeds the City of Tempe 's discharge limitations. Therefore, silver bearing wastes are prohibited from being discharged into the sewer system.

Prohibited Wastes and Local Limits

In addition to silver discharge limits, the facility must comply with the City of Tempe 's Waste Water Regulations regarding Prohibited Discharges. The regulations list specific waste and materials which are prohibited from being discharged to the sewer system including, but not limited to, metals (mercury, silver), oils, solvents, high temperature liquids and vapors (greater than 150 °F), PCBs and various pesticides. Hazardous waste is strictly prohibited from being discharged to the sewer. Refer to "Wastewater Practices" Fact Sheet for additional information and/or contact EH&S for assistance.

Signs

Should be posted at nearby sinks indicating that discharges of chemicals are strictly prohibited as a reminder to personnel involved with or near photo processing operations.

TRAINING

Employee Training

Employees that work in photo processing laboratories must be trained in the safe use of chemicals and chemical waste management prior to working in a laboratory.

REPORTING

Any accidental discharges to the City of Tempe sewer system are subject to certain notification requirements. Notify EH&S immediately of any spills and leaks. EH&S notifies the City of Tempe .

Updated 11/21/06