



## Dental Practice General Wastewater Discharge Permit

This **General Wastewater Discharge Permit** authorizes dental practices/permittees to discharge wastewater, into the City and County of San Francisco's (City's) sewerage system, provided that such wastewater discharges are performed through the facilities' side sewers/sewer laterals, and are in accordance with:

- The requirements as described in Chapter X (Public Works Code) of Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, Article 4.1 (hereinafter referred to as "Article 4.1");
- The City's Department of Public Works Order No. 158170; and
- The conditions set forth in this permit.

Compliance with this permit does not relieve a permittee of its obligation to comply with any or all applicable pretreatment regulations, standards or requirements under local, state and federal laws, and applicable rules, regulations, permits and authorizations issued by the General Manager. Noncompliance with any condition of this permit shall constitute a violation of Article 4.1.

Information about the City's Dental Mercury Reduction Program can be found on the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's website at <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=436>.

Date of Issuance and Effective Date: January 15, 2014

Date of Expiration: January 14, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Harrison", written over a horizontal line.

Lewis Harrison  
Manager  
Wastewater Enterprise  
Collection System Division

## **Part I Definitions**

As used in this general permit, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Amalgam Separator*” means a device that removes dental amalgam particles from wastewater by one or more methods – filtration, settlement, ion exchange or centrifugal action. An approved high efficiency amalgam separator is defined as one, which when tested in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization’s (ISO’s) standard ISO 11143, attains 95% or more amalgam removal, when tested by a certified laboratory.

“*Best Management Practices (BMPs)*” mean operational activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures, and other management activities that implement the requirements of Article 4.1, state and federal law, and Department rules, regulations, permits or authorizations.

“*General Manager*” means the General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission of the City, or a designated representative of the General Manager.

“*Permittee*” (used interchangeably with dental practice)

## **Part II Applicability**

All dental practices/permittees that place and/or remove dental amalgam fillings in patients’ teeth are considered to be likely sources of mercury-contaminated wastewater. Therefore, if the permittee places and/or removes dental amalgam fillings, it is required to comply with all the requirements of this permit, including the installation of an approved high efficiency amalgam separator. A permittee that places or removes amalgam fillings over a period of three (3) days or less in a calendar year, may be exempt from this permit’s requirement to install an amalgam separator, as determined by the City.

The permittee may be a multi-dental office facility, where the offices combine their waste discharges into a central approved high efficiency amalgam separator, provided that the contributing office operators agree to share responsibility for the installation and maintenance of the separator.

## **Part III Compliance Requirements**

All permittees shall observe the following compliance requirements:

- A. The permittee is required to implement the mandatory best management practices (BMPs) attached to this permit, within 90 days of the effective date of this permit.
- B. Any newly constructed or converted permittee shall install an approved high efficiency amalgam separator, where applicable (see above), **before initiating such discharge.**

- C. Any existing permittee on the effective date of this general permit, without a required approved high efficiency amalgam separator, shall complete the installation of that equipment **within 90 days of the effective date of this permit**.
- D. Any existing permittee that undergoes a change in ownership shall comply with all conditions of this general permit, including the installation of an approved high efficiency amalgam separator, **within 60 days of the change of ownership**, where required.
- E. The permittee shall:
  - 1. Keep a record of any installed amalgam separator, including (a) manufacturer's name, (b) brand name and model, (c) vendor name and telephone number, and (d) date of installation;
  - 2. Properly maintain any installed amalgam separator per the manufacturer's recommendations, and keep a maintenance log;
  - 3. Keep a written or computerized log of amalgam waste that is generated, and of amalgam waste that is removed from the premises by a recycler or hauler (see an example of a documentation form that is attached to this permit); and
  - 4. Retain the records of amalgam waste generation and removal, as well as amalgam separator maintenance for at least three years, and make them available to authorized City inspectors, upon request.

#### **Part IV – Inspection Authority and Reporting Requirements**

- A. Upon the presentation of proper credentials, employees authorized by the General Manager, when necessary for the performance of their duties, shall have the right to enter any permittee's premises. Such authorized personnel shall, at all reasonable hours, be allowed access to any facilities and records necessary for determining compliance, including, but not limited to the ability to:
  - 1. Inspect any installed amalgam separator, any other amalgam removal equipment, and waste storage area(s); and
  - 2. Review waste handling practices, and copy any records related to amalgam waste disposal.

Reasonable hours, in the context of inspection, include any time the permittee is engaged in any activity which results in wastewater discharge into the City's sewerage system.

- B. A permittee shall submit to the General Manager, within 15 working days, any information which the General Manager may request to determine whether the permittee is in compliance with this permit. Such information can include documentation of the installation of amalgam separator equipment.

## Part V – Noncompliance

A. A permittee may be subjected to the following penalties for noncompliance with the requirements of this permit or Article 4.1:

1. Criminal Penalties

Under Section 133(a) of Article 4.1, any person who violates any provision of Article 4.1 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 or be imprisoned in County Jail for not more than six months, or both. Each day each violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Any person who knowingly makes any false statement or misrepresentation in any record, report plan, or other document filed with the General Manager, or tampers with or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or sampling and analysis method required under Article 4.1, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 or by imprisonment in County Jail for not more than six months, or both.

2. Civil Penalties

Under Section 133(b) of Article 4.1, any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any discharge of wastewater or hazardous waste, as defined in Title 22, California Code of Regulations and its amendments, into the City's sewerage system, except in accordance with all permit requirements and other provisions of Article 4.1; violates any provision of a cease and desist order or cleanup and abatement order issued by the General Manager; or violates any requirement or prohibition of Article 4.1, shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each violation that occurs.

For intentional or negligent violations, the person so deemed shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per day for each violation that occurs.

3. Administrative Civil Penalties

Under Section 133(c) of Article 4.1, notwithstanding Section 133(b), any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any discharge of wastewater or hazardous waste, as defined in Title 22, California Code of Regulations and its amendments, into the City's sewerage system, except in accordance with all permit requirements and other provisions of Article 4.1; violates any provision of a cease and desist order or cleanup and abatement order issued by the General Manager; or violates any requirement or prohibition of Article 4.1, shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per day for each violation that occurs.

Notwithstanding Section 133(b), for intentional or negligent violations, the person so deemed shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 per day for each violation that occurs.