



Your local practice consultation

Our feedback

Your feedback matters

In accordance with the Code for Adoptions Sector Guidance Clause 2.6.2 to 2.6.5, we published our local practices on 3 January 2020 to ask for your feedback.

Here's a summary of your comments as well as our responses:

Local practices to support Code for Adoption Sewerage: Easements

As we received no comments or responses to this local practice, we'll publish as drafted

Local practices to support Code for Adoption Sewerage: Pumping stations

| Clause | Your comment | Our response |
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| 2. When you need a pumping station | Tanker access <i>"Please specify your requirements"</i> | We've set out specific tanker requirements for each pumping station type – please see section D5.2. |
| 4.1 General rules | Table D1 Minimum distances <i>"The distances from habitable buildings seems excessive and will take up considerable space on site and sterilise land"</i> | We've stated 5m further for each pumping station type than in the previous Sewers for Adoption Guide (SFA). We've increased this due to the significant number of odour complaints we receive from adjacent houses. While this may sterilise additional land, the developer can consider where to place open spaces and factor this into their pumping station design. |
| 4.1 General rules | Network emergency storage <i>"The proposed calculation is excessive, creating large storage for up to 24 hours - this could lead to odour issues"</i> | The Code calls for 160l storage per dwelling. At 4,000l/ dwelling per day design flow, 160l equates to approximately one hour of design flow (less at peak times). This is insufficient to protect against flooding and pollution. We typically need 4-hour emergency storage so that we have plenty of time to respond and attend to alarms. We're happy to consider alternative calculations but agree that we don't need 24-hour storage. |
| 4.1 General rules | Chemical dosing <i>"Smaller bore rising mains will be required where there are"</i> | We understand and share your concerns. We'll amend this to read that we prefer to avoid |

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| | <p><i>long rising mains needed - you may need to reconsider alternatives, such as allowing surface water into system to reduce cycle times</i></p> <p><i>"Smaller bore rising mains will be required where there are long rising mains needed and may compromise reliability"</i></p> | <p>permanent chemical dosing, and we'll advise designers to consider changing the location of the station and/or length and size of the main to avoid the need for it. If we need to, we'll consider smaller 80mm diameter rising mains with higher velocities to reduce travel time.</p> |
| 4.1 General rules | <p>D5.2 Site access by tanker <i>"Do we want to create typical layout arrangements for reverse-in compounds?"</i></p> | <p>Our preferred layouts are as per Pages 85 and 86 of the DCG.</p> |
| 4.1 General rules | <p>Fencing and security <i>"Do we want all compounds to have intruder alarms or just kiosks?"</i></p> | <p>We only need intruder alarms on kiosks unless the compound is in a high-risk area. We'll make this clearer.</p> |
| 4.1 General rules | <p>D5.3 Access chambers <i>"Do we no longer want the tanker hardstanding at a different level to wet well covers? Typically, it's been 150mm lower"</i></p> | <p>Correct. As per previous versions of the SFA, we want to make sure that the surface of the well cover is always flush with ground level, so no change here. This reduces the risk of trip hazards at night.</p> |
| 4.1 General rules | <p>D6 Rising mains <i>"Our experience suggests if you use 80mm rising mains on too large a development then this could lead to reliability issues and, depending on the system characteristics, drive a need for 2 pole pumps. Is it worth creating a stages sizing chart?"</i></p> | <p>We agree that for larger developments with larger flows, we'd expect larger diameter rising mains. Ultimately, the design should consider the flow rate and hydraulic requirements to aid sizing. Please talk to us before submitting your design if you require guidance.</p> |
| 4.1 General rules | <p>Rising main flow monitoring <i>"Can the 25mm tapped boss be fitted to the non-return valves instead?"</i></p> | <p>Yes, you can fit it anywhere on the crown of the discharge pipework as long as it doesn't interfere with the operation of the NRV. It's easier to drill and tap a bolted plate than a pipe.</p> |
| D7.2 & D7.3 Hazardous areas and wet wells | <p>Minimum requirements <i>"By clarifying this, surely this alleviates the requirement for a DSERA assessment that you ask for elsewhere??"</i></p> | <p>Once we specify our approach, your designers will need to mirror this approach. We have therefore clarified our zoning expectations.</p> |

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| D7.2 & D7.3 Hazardous areas and wet wells | <p>Zoning <i>"Guidance on zoned areas, how to work out or what we typically apply would be useful"</i></p> | We agree, so we'll make sure we offer further guidance on our approach to zoning and potentially some standard plans/sections to help you. |
| D7.9 & Fig D1 Lifting | <p>Fixed gantry <i>"Fixed gantries often create issues with planning - will you accept a mobile porta-gantry from Reid?"</i></p> | We acknowledge this can create problems. Our preference is still a fixed gantry, but where planning restrictions apply, we'll consider a mobile/portable gantry that is stored on site. |
| F3.3.11.4 Motor starter compartments | <p>Incomers <i>"With reference to the new Design & Construction Guidance, we note a change has been made. We'd ask that the old way be adopted so that someone has to physically remove the earth disconnect link. The practicalities of this change have not been looked into in great depth, but it certainly looks like the incomer will have to have a large contactor for this new earthing arrangement"</i></p> | We've expanded on this to explain our requirement: <i>Connect the generator socket earth pin and the local earth rod to the panel's main earth. Provide an earth link to disconnect the pane's main earth from the DNO's main earth terminal. Make sure all terminals, links and cabling are adequately sized and rated to withstand the short circuit current. You must also properly and securely mount and protect them.</i> |
| F3.4.4 Installation of cables | <p>Cables <i>"Your current requirement on site is cable draw pits with vented covers. This is not referenced in any of your specifications but known by us as a preference, having designed these stations for many years.</i></p> <p><i>How are you going to make clear your exact requirements from a layout viewpoint, especially where your preferences are not detailed or shown on a drawing anywhere?"</i></p> | We agree that we prefer cables, kiosks and equipment to pass through a vented cable draw pit. This pit must have a drain down pipe to the wet well. We'll update this in our published documents. |
| F3.4.6.1 Earthing and bonding | <p>Generator connections <i>"According to the new Design & Construction Guidance, a changeover contactor shall be provided to disconnect the</i></p> | We've expanded on this to explain our requirement: <i>At a minimum, the incomer must incorporate the following equipment and facilities:</i> |

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| | <p><i>pumping station from the DNO's main earth terminal (MET) and connect it to the earth electrode (see F3.3.6.2) in the event that a mobile generator is connected to the pumping station. This shall be linked to a generator changeover switch (see F3.3.11.2) so that the earthing conductor is disconnected and connected for the appropriate source at substantially the same time as the related live conductors.</i></p> <p><i>There's no reference to the Marechal socket previously requested in section F3.3.7 (Connection for a standby generator shall be of the Marechal appliance inlet type and shall be provided complete with cap and mating in-line connector)."</i></p> | <p><i>a) A 4-pole (3-phase and switched neutral) fuse switch with three suitably rated HRC fuses, labelled 'Mains / Off / Generator'</i></p> <p><i>b) A phase failure, phase reversal and low voltage protection relay to provide a 'Mains Failure' telemetry signal, with the phase failure detection relay connected downstream of the 'Mains / Off / Generator' switch</i></p> <p><i>c) a set of fuses and a neutral link for the phase failure relay and voltmeter, as outlined in the existing Code for Adoption</i></p> |
| <p>F3.5.2 Installation of instrumentation</p> | <p>Floats <i>"What are you suggesting here? You can't remove float switches from the chamber without having the covers opened. Covers have safety grids."</i></p> | <p>When main well covers are open and man trap/safety grids are in place, floats must be positioned to be accessible from ground level.</p> |