Separators

Surface water drains normally discharge to a watercourse so it is easy to understand how a spill can end up in the local river. If the correct equipment is not installed within your drainage network, contamination of surface water by oil and chemicals is a real risk. In order to assist you in the prevention of such pollution incidents the Environment Agency have produced guidelines which provide advice on 'Sustainable Drainage Systems' (SuDS). Referring to their Pollution Prevention Guidelines 3 is the starting point to understanding your responsibilities.

There are many reasons that a spill might occur from minor leaks and accidental spillage to larger incidents that may occur from deliverers and vandalism. Oil separators or interceptors are installed in the surface water drainage systems to prevent oil pollution reaching the watercourse.

The Aquasentry team are fully qualified to survey, repair, install and decommission the tanks. All work is undertaken on a bespoke basis. Call the team today for a free site survey.

Separator Classes

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

Class I - Concentration of less than 5mg/l of oil under standard test conditions. These are suitable for use when the separator only needs to remove very small oil droplets.

Class II - Concentration of less than 100mg/l oil un- der standard test conditions. These are suitable for discharges where an effluent assessment has been made and agreed for example where the effluent passes to foul sewer for treatment

Separator/Interceptor Standard and Types

A British (and European) standard (BS EN 858-1 and 858-2) for the design and use of prefabricated oil separators has

Full retention separators/interceptors

These treat the full flow of water through the drains. This flow is usually generated by natural rainfall and de- pendant on the size of the tank the capacity can be up to a rate off 65mm/hr.

On larger sites, some short term flooding can occur. The separator can help to limit the flow rate making full retention systems suitable for this purpose.

Bypass separators/interceptors

These will treat all flows of rainfall for rates of up to 6.5mm/hr cover over 99% of rainfall events. Anything above this rate will by-pass the separator.

Upon assessment, calculations will be made to determine the likelihood of a large spillage and heavy rainfall or flooding at the same time. If the risk is considered to be low then full water treatment is not needed and a bypass separator will be installed.

Forecourt separators

These must be full retention. The size of the separator is determined by the quantity of fuel that is held on site and therefore at risk of a spill or leak.

Washdown and Silt Separators

Spillages on these sites are likely to occur during refuelling and de- livery so calculations are made to ensure that a full capacity spill can be contained. This has to include customer spills, vandal- ism and a full tanker compartment of up to 7,600 litres. This system is used in vehicle and plant wash areas and other cleaning facilities that discharge the dirty water directly into a foul sewer.