



HYDROSTATIC TESTING FOR INDUSTRIES

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | WWW.IOWADNR.GOV

What the changes mean

The new General Permit 8 (GP8) will allow regulated facilities a legal way to discharge during certain activities without getting an individual permit. GP8 will ensure these discharges happen in a way to reduce negative impacts on water quality.

When to follow GP8

Follow GP8 when you need to discharge water used to verify the integrity of pipes, pipelines (including related appurtenances), tanks, containers, and other vessels designed to hold liquids or gases.

How to use GP8

Discharge to the Ground Surface

No Notice of Intent is required (unless you are adding chemicals other than chlorine or common dechlorination chemicals). You don't need to submit anything to the DNR to begin discharging.

Permittees must:

1. minimize ponding;
2. prevent contamination of water by fuel, lubricants, or waste materials during the testing or tank installation process.
3. prevent debris or other materials from being deposited within the container; and
4. prevent or minimize erosion of soil or other materials.
5. any chemicals added to the wastewater must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

An on-site worker must conduct daily visual observations of the discharge looking for objectionable color, odor, turbidity, petroleum sheen, other floating or suspended matter. No reports are required to be submitted unless requested by the DNR. You should not submit reports unless requested by the DNR.

You must keep records of the following:

1. the date(s) each discharge or disposal event started and ended;
1. the measured or estimated volume of water discharged or disposed of on each day a discharge occurs;
2. the location of the activity (either the street address; ¼ section, section, township and range; or latitude and longitude);
3. results of visual monitoring activities; and
4. the results of any analyses performed.

Discharge to Surface Water

You must have information that demonstrates that the eligibility criteria listed above discharge are met. To demonstrate your eligibility you may test the water, use test results from another similar situation, use engineering estimates, or visually inspect the water for turbidity or a visible sheen.

Permittees must:

1. avoid a direct discharge into a surface water of the State unless infeasible;
2. prevent debris or other materials from being deposited within the container;
3. prevent or minimize erosion of soil or other materials; and
4. use any chemicals added to the water according to the manufacturer's instructions.

An on-site worker must conduct daily visual observations of the discharge and look for objectionable color, odor, turbidity, petroleum sheen, other floating or suspended matter. Discharges must be free from these objectionable conditions. You should not submit reports unless requested by the DNR.

You must keep records of the following:

1. the date(s) each discharge or disposal event started and ended;
2. the measured or estimated volume of water discharged or disposed of on each day a discharge occurs;
3. the location of the activity (either the street address; ¼ section, section, township and range; or latitude and longitude);
4. results of visual monitoring activities; and
5. the results of any analyses performed.

You must submit a Notice of Intent for the discharge if one or more of the following apply:

1. Chemicals will be added to the water, other than chlorine or chemicals commonly used for dechlorination; or
2. The container to be tested was previously used to store or transport a fluid other than water, natural gas, natural gas liquids, or refined petroleum products.

If you need a Notice of Intent, follow the requirements of GP8 Part III.E, III.F, III.K and III.L. Use this website to submit a Notice of Intent: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/generalpermits/>

All other hydrostatic discharges are exempt from the Notice of Intent requirement and are automatically authorized for discharge.

Additional resources

GP 8 Website: www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting/NPDES-General-Permits/GP8-Hydrostatic

For more information

Iowa DNR Wastewater

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APPENDIX 1

To be covered by GP8 for surface water discharge you must first meet the eligibility criteria below in (with or without treatment) at the point the discharge reaches a surface water.

a) New or Unused Containers and Containers Previously Used Solely for Transport or Storage of Water

Wastewater Parameter	Eligibility Criteria
pH ¹	6.5 min - 9.0 max
Sulfate	1,514 mg/L
Chloride	629 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) ²	45 mg/L
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L
Iron (total)	1.0 mg/L
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) ³	0.019 mg/L
Aluminum (total) ⁴	0.75 mg/L

b) Containers Previously Used For Transport or Storage of Natural Gas or Natural Gas Liquids

Wastewater Parameter	Eligibility Criteria
pH ¹	6.5 min - 9.0 max
Sulfate	1,514 mg/L
Chloride	629 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) ²	45 mg/L
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L
Iron (total)	1.0 mg/L
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	0.002 mg/L
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) ³	0.019 mg/L
Aluminum (total) ⁴	0.75 mg/L

c) Containers Previously Used for Transport or Storage of Refined Petroleum Products

Wastewater Parameter	Eligibility Criteria
pH ¹	6.5 min - 9.0 max
Sulfate	1,514 mg/L
Chloride	629 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) ²	45 mg/L
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L
Iron (total)	1.0 mg/L
Benzene*	0.510 mg/L
Toluene*	2.50 mg/L
Ethylbenzene*	2.10 mg/L
Xylenes*	10 mg/L
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) ³	0.019 mg/L
Aluminum (total) ⁴	0.75 mg/L
Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) ⁵	0.040 mg/L
Lead (total)†	0.0197 mg/L

*For discharges to storm sewers or tile lines, a benzene limit of 0.005 mg/L and a BETX limit of 0.100 mg/L apply. BETX is the sum of benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylene.

†The Total Lead criterion applies only when the container tested was previously used to store or transport leaded fuel.

d) Containers Previously Used for Transport or Storage of Fluids Other than Natural Gas, Refined Petroleum Products, or Water

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria below, these dischargers must provide the DNR with the identity of the fluid previously stored and any byproducts of that fluid. The estimated concentration of the fluid and byproducts in the discharge must also be provided.

Wastewater Parameter	Eligibility Criteria
pH ¹	6.5 min - 9.0 max
Sulfate	1,514 mg/L
Chloride	629 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) ²	45 mg/L
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L
Iron (total)	1.0 mg/L
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) ³	0.019 mg/L
Aluminum (total) ⁴	0.75 mg/L

The footnotes below apply to all the above tables.

- 1: The maximum pH criterion is increased to 9.5 when using drinking water that has been softened.
- 2: The TSS criterion is increased to 150 mg/L when the hydrostatic test or tank ballasting uses untreated surface water and the water is discharged back to the same waterbody.
- 3: The TRC criterion applies only if water containing chlorine is used.
- 4: The aluminum criterion applies only when alum is used to settle solids from the discharge or source water, via treatment at a drinking water plant, or when the container is made of aluminum.
- 5: The MTBE criterion applies only when the container was previously used to store or transport gasoline.