

## Compressor Condensate

### A summary of the Legislation affecting discharge.

The Water Resources Act (1991) Chapter II, para 85, (1) refers to an offence of knowingly polluting controlled waters, by the disposal of poisonous, noxious or polluting matter.

Compressor Condensate falls into this category, and can render the polluter liable to fines of up to £20,000 or imprisonment for up to 3 months.

The legislation is aimed at the responsible person, and sanctions are taken against the individual, not the company.

The Health and Safety Commission Statutory Instrument 1989, No 2169 covering Pressure Systems and Transportable Gas Containers makes it clear that as from 1994 all new installations should have condensate drainage points feeding into an oil/water separator prior to final discharge.

Other relevant legislation is 'The Water Industry Act 1991' and 'The Environmental Protection Regulations 1991'

Finally, the British Compressed Air Society, in its publication CAC 9407 summarises the position by stating categorically that "Under no circumstances should it be permitted to discharge untreated compressed air condensate to public surface water, sewers, or to ground."

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*Remember - the old authority, the **NRA**, has become part of the **Environmental Agency**, which has overall responsibility for Land, Air and Water pollution. Consent to discharge oil contaminated waste must however be obtained from the appropriate Water Treatment Company. A list of the major ones is to be found at the back of the B.C.A.S. Condensate Book.*

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