

Mr Michael Blee
General Manager
Suncoast Waste Water Management
michaelblee@ozzicleen.com

Dear Mr Blee,

Assessment using Australian Standard AS 1546.3:2017 Onsite Domestic Wastewater Treatment Units – Part 3 Secondary Treatment Systems

Further to our letter dated 27 November 2020, this letter is to provide you with an update on EPA's expectations regarding the assessment of types of secondary treatment systems against *AS 1546.3:2017- On-site domestic wastewater treatment units, Part 3: Secondary treatment systems* ('2017 Standard').

EPA's position since 2017 has been that systems certified against *AS/NZS 1546.3:2008 On-site domestic wastewater treatment units, Part 3: Aerated wastewater treatment systems* ('2008 Standard') will need to meet the 2017 Standard by 31 December 2020.

As you may be aware, the *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* was introduced to assist Victorians during a socially and economically challenging time. This included postponing the new environment protection legislation to enable duty holders focus on immediate challenges posed by the pandemic. The *Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018* and related Environment Protection Regulations are now intended to commence on 1 July 2021 (rather than 1 July 2020).

The Victorian Government's position is that all certificates relating to secondary treatment systems will need to be assessed against the 2017 Standard. All existing certificates issued against the 2008 Standard that do not expire by 1 July 2021 will continue to be valid for 2 years from commencement (that is, to 30 June 2023), or earlier if the expiry date in the certificate is earlier.

This transitional approach for secondary treatment systems to meet the 2017 Standard mitigates the adverse impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on some manufacturers of those systems. Specifically, we recognise that the restrictions on interstate movement made it challenging for some manufacturers to undertake testing against the 2017 Standard by 30 December 2020.

In your email on 9 December 2020, you mentioned that Suncoast Waste Water Management will be getting its current Certificate of Conformity (License No: SMK02608) issued against the 2008 Standard audited by SAI Global in February 2021, which will extend the current certificate approval to the 2008 Standard out for a further three years.

The transitional process set out above will mean that Suncoast will need to complete testing and obtain certification against the 2017 Standard by 14 August 2021. If Suncoast re-certifies against the 2008 Standard before 1 July 2021, the renewed certificate will only be valid in Victoria until 1 July 2023, or the expiry date on the certificate, if earlier.



**Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria**

200 Victoria Street
Carlton VIC 3053

GPO Box 4395
Melbourne VIC 3001

DX 210082

T 1300 372 842
1300 EPA VIC

W epa.vic.gov.au



We hope that this letter clarifies the approach for secondary treatment systems to transition to the 2017 Standard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Stepanoff', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

JACQUIE STEPANOFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REGULATORY STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY VICTORIA

21/ 01 / 2021