Waste Tracking Customer Information Sheet

Do I have obligations under Queensland’s waste tracking laws?

Yes. Under Queensland’s Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 (Regulation) waste handlers must submit waste tracking information to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) as part of the process for tracking the transport of regulated waste (including clinical and related waste).

Waste handlers include you as waste generator - an organisation that produces or stores trackable waste (whether generated itself or received from someone else) and arranges for this waste to be sent for storage, recycling, treatment or disposal at another location via an authorized transporter (such as SUEZ or its subcontractors).

Under the Regulation, waste generators are obliged to (among other things):

- Record prescribed information about the waste
- Give the prescribed information to the waste transporter
- Give the prescribed information to the DEHP within 7 days
- Keep records of the waste transaction for 5 years

Failure to comply can result in the DEHP issuing you with a fine. However you can be relieved from these waste tracking obligations by appointing an agent to act on your behalf.

Why am I being asked to sign and return a waste tracking agency agreement to SUEZ?

To facilitate coordinated compliance with the Regulation, waste transporters usually develop waste tracking systems (written or electronic) to integrate and verify waste tracking information before it is provided to DEHP. DEHP encourages the use of these ‘agent’ arrangements and requires they be documented under a waste tracking agency agreement in accordance with s81U of the Regulation. The waste tracking agency agreement will essentially relieve you from your key waste tracking obligations under the Regulation.

If SUEZ directly provides your regulated waste transport service, you will be required to enter into a waste tracking agency agreement with SUEZ. If SUEZ provides this service to you via its subcontractors, you will be required to enter into a waste tracking agency agreement with SUEZ’s relevant subcontractor.

You should retain a copy of the waste tracking agency agreement, but there is no need to lodge it with DEHP.

What am I committing to under the waste tracking agency agreement?

The content of waste tracking agency agreements will differ depending on individual business requirements of the relevant transporter. Generally, you will be required to:

- certify that the trackable waste being collected from your site conforms to certain waste categories; and
- indemnify the transporter against any claims made against them or loss they may suffer if you fail to correctly supply this information.

What happens if I fail to sign a waste tracking agency agreement?

SUEZ and its subcontractors may not be able to provide regulated waste collection and disposal services without a signed waste tracking agency agreement.

If services can continue to be provided, you will be required to personally comply with your waste tracking obligations under the Regulation and in addition, may be asked to provide assurances to SUEZ regarding the categories of waste being collected, and provide an indemnity for any claim or loss suffered if you fail to correctly supply this information.

Can SUEZ sign the waste tracking agency agreement on my behalf if a subcontractor is being used?

No. SUEZ is not the waste generator. As SUEZ does not control your site it cannot give the commitments under the waste tracking agency agreement on your behalf.

For more information, please refer to DEHP’s website: www.ehp.qld.gov.au/waste/guidelines-information