



Why is Photo Imaging Waste a Concern?

Routine photo imaging procedures can generate harmful waste materials such as spent processing solutions, disinfectants, cleaning agents and rinse solutions. These materials may contain elevated levels of silver, iron, sulphate, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and chemical oxygen demand (COD).

Although the volume of these materials discharged from individual photo imaging operations may be small, the cumulative amount of waste from all photo imaging operations within the Abbotsford and Mission area has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment and on solid waste recycling efforts.

By following the **Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations**, photo imaging locations will significantly reduce the amount of contaminants that end up at the JAMES Treatment Plant and eventually in the Fraser River.



Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations

Are there any exemptions from the Code of Practice?

Photo imaging operations where only digital photo imaging procedures are used will be exempt from the requirement to install silver recovery technology.

Photo imaging operations that process non-digital photo images on a rare occasion should speak with a product representative that can size the correct silver recovery technology to meet the limited needs, or to discuss options for off-site waste management.

For more information contact:

Abbotsford/Mission Source Control Program

32315 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W7
Tel: 604-864-5663
Fax: 604-557-1457
Email: jvurzinger@abbotsford.ca

www.abbotsford.ca
www.mission.ca



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Water & Sewer Services



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Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations



The Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations was effective

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Tel: 604-864-5663
www.abbotsford.ca
www.mission.ca

What is a Code of Practice?

A code of practice is a regulatory requirement that helps control waste discharged to the sanitary sewer. A code of practice sets out minimum waste treatment, equipment maintenance and record keeping requirements for specific industries. The **Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations** is a regulation for managing waste materials generated by routine photo imaging procedures.

Photo imaging operations include any retail, commercial, institutional or corporate photographic film processing or printing facilities that use silver in image forming or create wastewater containing silver. Some examples of photo imaging locations include photo finishing locations, hospitals, animal hospitals, veterinary clinics, chiropractic offices and dental offices.



What is Required by the Code of Practice?

A photo imaging operation that produces waste water containing silver must either:

- Collect and transport the waste from the photo imaging operation for off-site waste management; or
- Treat the waste prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer using silver recovery technology (i.e. such as chemical replacement cartridges and electrolytic units).

The silver recovery technology must be installed and maintained according to the recommendations of the manufacturer or the supplier, a metering pump must be installed and calibrated for delivering the waste, and the silver recovery technology must be located in such a location that a spill or leak will not result in untreated waste entering any sewer.

For a silver recovery technology system using two chemical replacement cartridges (CRC) in series, the photo imaging operation must keep an on-site record book including the following information:

- Date of installation and serial number of each CRC;
- Maximum recommended capacity for each CRC;
- Dates of all metering pump calibrations;
- Records of all monthly and/or weekly silver test results; and
- Dates of inspection, maintenance, cleaning and replacement of any equipment.

For a silver recovery technology system using an electrolytic recovery unit in addition to two chemical replacement cartridges (CRC) in series, the photo imaging operation must keep an on-site record book including the following information:

- All information listed under the two CRC system;
- Dates of removal of silver from the electrolytic recovery unit;
- Date of each maintenance check on the electrolytic recovery unit;
- Dates and descriptions of all operational problems associated with the electrolytic recovery unit.

All records must be maintained for a period of two years. Copies of generic record keeping forms are available through the Abbotsford/Mission Source Control Program. Additional detailed requirements are listed in the **Code of Practice for Photo Imaging Operations** bylaw.



Codes of practice are regulated through the City of Abbotsford Sewer Rates and Regulations Bylaw, 2009 and the District of Mission Sewer Bylaw No. 5033-2009.