

## Requirements for Fermented Beverage Producers:

In accordance with Chapter [15-10](#) (Wastewater Regulations) of the Austin City Code, Austin Water's Special Services Division (SSD) requires all Fermented Beverage Producers do the following:

1. Submit an Application for a Wastewater Discharge Permit;
2. Develop, submit, and maintain Best Management, Source Reduction, and Pollution Prevention Practices that include, at a minimum:
  - Standard Operating Procedures detailing how your facility will meet the pH, temperature, and solids requirements as set forth in [15-10-22](#) of the Austin City Code;
  - Log sheets documenting that the temperature and pH of each discharge has been recorded and met satisfactorily;
  - Log sheets documenting the occurrence and measurement of each solid waste disposal event; and
3. Submit answers to the Fermented Beverage Producers Supplementary Questionnaire.

## FAQ's

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**1. Do I qualify as a “Fermented Beverage Producer”?**

Any facility which discharges wastewater to Austin Water’s collection system as a result of a process or function that includes:

- the fermentation of liquids at breweries, distilleries, cideries, meaderies, sakaguras, wineries, and other fermented beverage production facilities; and
- the cleaning/sanitizing of equipment, vessels or production area used for the fermentation of liquids.

**2. What is the Special Services Division of Austin Water?**

Austin Water’s Special Services Division (SSD) administers and enforces Chapter 15-10 (Wastewater Regulations) of the Austin City Code. These regulations are intended to protect Austin Water’s sanitary sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plants from adverse effects related to high strength wastewater and pollutants from industrial sources. By doing this we ensure a safer and more sustainable future for Austin’s wastewater infrastructure.

**3. What are the requirements for pH, temperature, and solids discharges in Chapter 15-10 of the Austin City Code?**

Section 15-10-22 (Specifically Prohibited Pollutants) of these regulations describes the prohibitions related to pH, temperature, and solids as outlined below:

*“Except as authorized by this chapter, a person may not discharge to the POTW [publicly owned treatment works] the following:...*

*(4) a substance causing heat in the POTW at a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.9 degrees Centigrade) or higher, or at a temperature that inhibits biological activity in the POTW if the discharge causes interference, or an increase in the temperature of the influent to a treatment plant to 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Centigrade) or higher;...*

*(8) an acid, alkali, or substance with a pH value lower than 6.0 or higher than 11.5 standard units, or that corrodes or damages the POTW;...*

*(14) a solid or viscous pollutant in a quantity or concentration that could obstruct the flow in the POTW or result in a sanitary sewer overflow or interference;”*

**4. Why are these discharge requirements important?**

Wastewater that is too acidic (low pH) or alkaline (high pH) can corrode the sewer collection system. High temperatures can inhibit vital biological processes at the wastewater treatment plants and cause premature wear on the collection system. Solids capable of settling can block or restrict flows in sewer lines resulting in overflows. The discharge requirements are designed to lower the risk of damage to the collection system and reduce sewer overflows into sensitive watersheds.

**5. Why are these discharge requirements applicable to Fermented Beverage Producers?**

Investigations and surveys conducted by SSD representatives have shown that industrial wastewater discharges from breweries, distilleries, cideries, meaderies, sakaguras, wineries, and other fermented beverage producers have the potential to generate discharges with extreme pH, high temperatures, and high solids concentrations. With the recent growth in the amount of Fermented Beverage Producers within the City of Austin, the SSD is establishing the minimum requirements for Best Management, Source Reduction, and Pollution Prevention Practices described above to help ensure these facilities meet the already established limits on pH, temperature, and solids.

**6. Where can I find an Application for a Wastewater Discharge Permit and a Supplementary Questionnaire, and where do I mail these documents?**

The application titled "General Industrial User Wastewater Discharge Permit Application" and the "Fermented Beverage Producer Supplementary Questionnaire" can both be downloaded at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pretreatment-forms-applications-and-reports>. Please mail completed applications and questionnaires to:

City of Austin / Austin Water Utility  
Special Services Division / Office of Industrial Waste  
3907 S. Industrial Drive, Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78744-1070

**7. Why do I need to complete a Supplementary Questionnaire?**

The Fermented Beverage Producer Supplementary Questionnaire gives us important information to better understand your facility. In addition, the information provided by your facility and other facilities in this production category will help inform future decision making and guidance development regarding your Industry.

**8. What are the Standard Operating Procedures and what do they need to contain?**

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are detailed instructions developed by an organization to help carry out its routine operations. For the purposes of meeting the Fermented Beverage Producer requirements, your SOPs must describe procedures developed for carrying out the routine Best Management, Source Reduction, and Pollution Prevention Practices to ensure compliance with temperature, pH, and solids discharge requirements outlined in Chapter 15-10 (Wastewater Regulations). SSD does not require any specific practices because your facility must develop those that are appropriate for your unique operations.

**9. For how long do log sheets need to be retained?**

In accordance with Chapter 15-10 (Wastewater Regulations), the required log sheets must be retained on site for at least 3 years from the date they are created and must be made available for inspection and copying by SSD representatives during that time.