



BMPs for Silver Dischargers

The Silver Best Management Practices (BMP) Program is a program designed to address the discharge of silver by the local business community into the sewer system. The Silver Best Management Practices program is based on an approach known as the Code of Management Practices (CMP). The CMP was developed by the Silver Council and the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA). It is designed to encourage silver users to minimize the release of silver to wastewater treatment facilities, increase water conservation, maximize silver recovery, and protect the environment and wastewater treatment plant.

The CMP combines current technology and pollution prevention practices to ensure that silver is reduced in the waste stream in a cost-effective but environmentally sound manner. It is a performance-based approach that imposes fewer burdens on silver users and regulators alike.

Program Details and Documents

On-site recovery option: This applies to your business if you have a silver recovery unit (SRU) on your x-ray or film processor. Listed below are the requirements of the Silver BMP Program. Along with your original category determination, all log forms and maintenance records must be kept on site for a minimum of three years.

- **Weekly:** With your silver test strips, check the fixer going into your silver recovery unit, and then check the waste coming out of the unit into the drain pipe. As indicated in your program notebook, this will indicate a pass/fail situation regarding your cartridge. If the cartridge fails, arrange to have it replaced immediately. Log your weekly silver test results in a weekly log
- **Annually:** Conduct analytical tests to verify silver recovery percentages for Silver BMP requirements. Record the results in an Annual Log.
- **Annually:** Submit your Letter of Participation: Letter of Participation
- **Record any maintenance performed,** such as a cartridge replacement, on the Equipment Maintenance Log.

Off-site recovery (zero discharge) option: This applies to your business if no silver-rich solutions, such as fixer, are discharged to the local wastewater treatment system. The silver-rich solutions are transported off site for treatment. Listed below are the requirements of the Silver BMP Program. Your logbook should contain the dates and amounts of silver-rich waste hauled, receipts/invoices, manifests, and your category determination. Along with your original category determination, all log forms and manifests must be kept on-site for a minimum of three years.

- **Annually:** Submit your Letter of Participation
- **Annually:** Submit your Zero Discharge Certification
- **Each time silver-rich solutions are transported off-site for treatment, keep your manifests**