|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | | **Title** |
| **NFR** | 5.D  5.D.1  5.D.2  5.D.3 | Wastewater handling  Domestic wastewater handling  Industrial wastewater handling  Other wastewater handling |
| **SNAP** | 091001  091002  091007 | Waste water treatment in industry  Waste water treatment in residential/commercial sectors  Latrines |
| **ISIC** |  |  |
| **Version** | Guidebook 2023 |  |

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# Overview

This chapter covers emissions from waste water handling. The methodological descriptions considered within this sector relate to non-methane volatile organic compound (NMVOC) emissions from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants (Tier 1 method) and ammonia (NH3) emissions from dry toilets (Tier 2 method).

Emissions from domestic and industrial wastewater treated in municipal wastewater treatment plants and from dry toilets may be reported in 5.D.1. Emissions from industrial wastewater treated in-situ may be reported in 5.D.2.

In most cases, wastewater handling will be an insignificant source for air pollutants. NMVOC emissions from wastewater treatment plants may be of local importance, especially in urban areas (Atasoy et al., 2004). Dry toilets are generally only a minor source of NH3 emissions except in countries where they are largely used.

# Description of sources

## Process description

This section describes the processes and emissions from treatment plants and latrines.

### Wastewater treatment plants

Waste water from households and industries may be collected by sewers connected to centralised waste water treatment plants (WWTPs), where it is treated to reduce substance loads (organic matter, nutrient, hazardous substance) before being discharged in the aquatic environment.

Some industrial facilities have their own in-situ wastewater treatment plant before discharging in sewers or directly in aquatic environment, depending on substance loads in the effluent and national regulations.

Some households have autonomous wastewater treatment (e.g. septic tanks, dry toilets) and are not connected to the sewage system that transports the wastewater to treatment plants.

### Dry toilets

Dry toilets are characterised by the fact that they do not require flushing with water and consequently do not need to be connected to a sewage system. Dry toilets must not be confused with septic tanks, which have a water flush.

The first generation of dry toilets were the latrines, also named or backhouses. A latrine is a simple dry toilet built outside the house, usually in a backyard. A storage tank under the latrine can be a hole dug in the ground, or a concrete reservoir. Capacity of the tank can vary between 1 m3 and 2 m3, depending on the family size. The time of storage can vary between a few months and ‘forever’. Tanks are emptied by cesspool emptiers or contents are deposited on an animal manure heap.

The more recent generation of dry toilets, developed in the 20th century to improve convenience, are mainly characterized by two types: source-separating toilets (urine is diverted from faeces and stored in a separate tank) and composting toilets (excreta is composted, with or without litter of plant matter, in a tank or pit under the toilet). Unlike latrines, they make the use of dry toilets possible within the home. The dried faeces and the diluted urine or the composted excreta are supposed to be suitable for being used in the garden and/or for agricultural use, depending on national regulation.

Ammonia, which is responsible for the majority of unpleasant odours, is formed during the rotting and decomposition processes of excreta. Ammonia emission from dry toilets depends mainly on quantity and form of nitrogen compounds in human excreta, as well as on temperature.

Nitrogen content in human excreta depends on the diet, health and physical activity of an individual. A moderately active person with a daily intake of about 300 g of carbohydrates, 100 g of fat and 100 g of proteins excretes about 16 g of nitrogen. Kidneys void 95 % of nitrogen and the residual 5 % is excreted mostly as N in faeces. A person on European diet voids 80 to 90 % of nitrogen as urea (Harper et al, 1983).

Table ‑ Daily excretion of nitrogen in normal urine (pH 6.0) (source: Harper et al., 1983)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Compound | Quantity [g] | N equivalent [g] |
| Nitrogen compounds (total) | 25–35 | 10–14 |
| Urea (50 % of solid compounds depends on diet) | 25–30 | 10–12 |
| Creatinine | 1.4 (1–1.8) | 0.5 |
| Ammonia | 0.7 (0.3–1) | 0.4 |
| Uric acid | 0.7 (0.5–0.8) | 0.2 |
| N in other compounds (e.g. amino acids) |  | 0.5 |

## Techniques

An overview is given in the process description. There are no specific techniques that are applicable here.

## Emissions

**Wastewater treatment plants**

Emissions from waste water treatment plants are mainly greenhouse gases (CO2, CH4 and N2O, and are not treated in this chapter[[1]](#footnote-1)), NH3 and NMVOC. NMVOC emissions from WWTPs occur mainly through the volatilization of substances in influents (driven by the concentration differences between the air and the contacting aqueous phase), increased by agitation and forced-air flow, and evaporation (driven by the temperature difference between the air and the aqueous phase). The composition and magnitude of NMVOC emissions depend on the characteristics of the wastewater influents (flow rates, hydrocarbons concentrations) of environmental conditions (mainly the wind speed and the temperature). Therefore, NMVOC may vary substantially from a wastewater treatment plant to another (Atasoy et al., 2004).

to airor in facilities handling wastewater with hight hydrocarbon loads

**Dry toilets**

Atmospheric emissions from dry toilets are mainly NH3. Ammonia emissions derive mainly from the decomposition of urea and uric acid. Excreted urea is hydrolysed to ammonium (NH4+)through the action of microbial urea and ammonium is volatilized ammonia. The rate of this hydrolysis depends on temperature, pH, amount of urea present and water content. The hydrolysis increases pH of collected urine and faeces to about 9. The decomposition of protein in faeces is a slow process, but during storage, 40 to 70 % of total N is converted to the NH4+ form (European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC), 1994).

## Controls

The reduction of volatile organic compounds from wastewater in municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plants is possible if collected and degraded for instance by biofiltration and photocatalytic oxidation. However, because of wastewater specific conditions (diffuse emissions, high humidity, low concentration, large air flows) these techniques are generally used only in rare situations (emissions of hazardous compounds, odours).

Reduction of ammonia emissions from dry toilets is possible by the installation of water supply and sewage systems, which is particularly possible in urban areas.

# Methods

This source is expected to be only of minor importance for emissions of air pollutants and little information is available on estimating emissions from waste water handling.

## Choice of method

Figure 3‑1 presents the procedure to select the methods for estimating emissions from waste water handling. The basic ideas behind this procedure are:

* if detailed information is available, use it;
* if the source category is a key category, a Tier 2 or better method must be applied and detailed input data must be collected. The decision tree directs the user in such cases to the Tier 2 method, since it is expected that it is easier to obtain the necessary input data for this approach than to collect facility-level data needed for a Tier 3 estimate;
* the alternative of applying a Tier 3 method, using detailed process modelling, is not explicitly included in this decision tree. However, detailed modelling will always be done at facility level and results of such modelling could be seen as ‘facility data’ in the decision tree.

Figure ‑ Decision tree for source category 5.D Waste water handling



## Tier 1 default approach

### Algorithm

The Tier 1 approach for NMVOC emissions from waste water treatment plants uses the general equation:

(1)

This equation is applied at the national level. The Tier 1 emission factors assume an averaged or typical technology and abatement implementation in the country and integrate all different sub-processes in the handling of waste water.

### Default emission factors

A default emission factor for NMVOC emissions from waste water handling has been derived from a Turkish study (Atasoy et al., 2004). This emission factor should be handled with care, since it may not be applicable to all waste water treatment plants. Furthermore, the emission factors reported in literature show a high variation. More specific information is available in the references indicated in subsection 2.3 of the present chapter. Emission factors for all other pollutants are not available and may be assumed negligible in most cases; therefore, this chapter does not report emission factors for these other pollutants.

For guidance on emissions from CH4 and N2O emissions from this source, refer to the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (IPCC, 2006).

Table ‑ Tier 1 emission factors for source category 5.D Wastewater handling

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tier 1 default emission factors** | | | | | |
|  | Code | Name | | | |
| **NFR Source Category** | 5.D | Wastewater handling | | | |
| **Fuel** | NA | | | | |
| **Not applicable** | NOx, CO, Sox, PCB, PCDD/F, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, Total 4 PAHs, HCB, PCP, SCCP | | | | |
| **Not estimated** | NH3, TSP, PM10, PM2.5, BC, Pb, Cd, Hg, As, Cr, Cu, Ni, Se, Zn | | | | |
| **Pollutant** | **Value** | **Unit** | **95% confidence interval** | | **Reference** |
| **Lower** | **Upper** |
| NMVOC | 15 | mg/m3 waste water handled | 5 | 50 | Atasoy et al. (2004) |

### Activity data

The relevant activity statistic for the Tier 1 approach is the total amount of waste water handled by all waste water treatment plants in the country.

## Tier 2 technology-specific approach

### Algorithm

The Tier 2 approach is similar to the Tier 1 approach. To apply the Tier 2 approach, both the activity data and the emission factors need to be stratified according to the different techniques/processes that may occur in the country.

The approach followed to apply a Tier 2 approach is as follows:

Stratify the waste water handling in the country to model the different product and process types occurring in the national waste water handling ‘industry’ into the inventory by:

* defining the handling using each of the separate product and/or process types (together called ‘technologies’ in the formulae below) separately; and
* applying technology specific emission factors for each of these ‘technologies’:

(2)

where:

ARhandling,technology = the waste water handling rate within the source category, using this specific ‘technology’,

EFtechnology,pollutant = the emission factor for this technology and this pollutant.

A country where only one technology is implemented will result in a penetration factor of 100 % and the algorithm reduces to:

 (3)

where:

Epollutant = the emission of the specified pollutant,

ARproduction = the activity rate for the waste incineration,

EFpollutant = the emission factor for this pollutant.

The emission factors in this approach still will include all sub-processes within the waste incineration.

### Technology-specific emission factors

This section presents emissions from waste water handling (the emission factor is identical to the emission factor used in the Tier 1 approach), but also considers separately NH3 emissions from dry toilets.

#### Dry toilets

The emission factor for latrines has been determined from the similarity between dry toilets and open storage of animal manure in lagoons or ponds (EMEP/EEA, 2006). Emission factors for CO2, N2O and CH4 are not provided in this chapter. Information about these greenhouse gas emissions can be found in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (IPCC, 2006).

Table ‑ Tier 2 emission factors for source category 5.D Waste water handling, latrines

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tier 2 emission factors** | | | | | |
|  | Code | Name | | | |
| **NFR Source Category** | 5.D.1 | Domestic wastewater handling | | | |
| **Fuel** | NA | | | | |
| **SNAP (if applicable)** | 091007 | Latrines  Other dry toilets | | | |
| **Technologies/Practices** |  | | | | |
| **Region or regional conditions** |  | | | | |
| **Abatement technologies** |  | | | | |
| **Not applicable** | NOx, CO, SOx, PCB, PCDD/F, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, HCB | | | | |
| **Not estimated** | NMVOC, TSP, PM10, PM2.5, BC, Pb, Cd, Hg, As, Cr, Cu, Ni, Se, Zn | | | | |
| **Pollutant** | **Value** | **Unit** | **95% confidence interval** | | **Reference** |
| **Lower** | **Upper** |
| NH3 | 1.6 | kg/person/year | 0.8 | 3.2 | EMEP/EEA (2006) |

#### Waste water handling

The default Tier 2 emission factor for NMVOC emissions from waste water handling is given in Table 3‑3 below. The emission factor is equivalent to the emission factor used in the Tier 1 default approach.

Table ‑ Tier 2 emission factors for source category 5.D Waste water handling, latrines

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tier 2 emission factors** | | | | | |
|  | Code | Name | | | |
| **NFR Source Category** | 5.D.2 | Industrial wastewater handling | | | |
| **Fuel** | NA | | | | |
| **SNAP (if applicable)** | 091001 091002 | Waste water treatment in industry Waste water treatment in residential/commercial sectors | | | |
| **Technologies/Practices** | Waste water treatment plants | | | | |
| **Region or regional conditions** |  | | | | |
| **Abatement technologies** |  | | | | |
| **Not applicable** | NOx, CO, SOx, PCB, PCDD/F, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, HCB | | | | |
| **Not estimated** | NH3, TSP, PM10, PM2.5, BC, Pb, Cd, Hg, As, Cr, Cu, Ni, Se, Zn | | | | |
| **Pollutant** | **Value** | **Unit** | **95% confidence interval** | | **Reference** |
| **Lower** | **Upper** |
| NMVOC | 15 | mg/m3 waste water handled | 5 | 50 | Atasoy et al. (2004) |

### Abatement

Reduction efficiencies when abatement is in place are not available for this source category.

### Activity data

Population with no connexion to sewers are supposed to use autonomous treatment systems, such as septic tanks and dry toilets. Only population connected to dry toilets must be considered for the NH3 estimate.

Dry toilets may also be use on a temporary basis (vacation home, local events, national parks) and very few statistics will be available.

Therefore, as a first approach activity data will be the population whose main house are using dry toilets.

In countries where dry toilets are largely used but on a temporary basis and expected to be non-negligible source of NH3, a more refine estimate of the population may be done (full time equivalent), based for instance on the vacancy home occupancy rate.

## Tier 3 emission modelling and use of facility data

Not available for this source.

# Data quality

## Completeness

No specific issues.

## Avoiding double counting

As NMVOC emissions from waste water treatment plants mainly occur through the volatilization of substances already present in influents, there is a risk of double accounting with NMVOC emissions from the solvent use sector, especially when a balance method is used to estimate emissions from solvent use.

Dry toilets must not be confused with septic tanks were there is water flush. Only population connected to dry toilets must be considered for the NH3 estimate from wastewater handling.

Moreover, dry toilets may be use on a temporary basis (vacation home, local events, national parks) and there is a risk of over estimation when a full time use is assumed.

## Verification

### Best Available Technique emission factors

BAT emission factors are not available for this source. However, there is an extensive amount of information with regard to waste water treatment available in the Reference Document on Best Available Techniques in Common Waste Water and Waste Gas Treatment / Management Systems (European Commission, 2003).

## Developing a consistent time series and recalculation

No specific issues.

## Uncertainty assessment

No specific issues.

### Emission factor uncertainties

No specific issues.

### Activity data uncertainties

No specific issues.

## Inventory quality assurance/quality control QA/QC

No specific issues.

## Gridding

For dry toilets, it is good practice to disaggregate national totals on the basis of population, taking urban and rural differences in the number of dry toilets (especially latrines) into account.

## Reporting and documentation

No specific issues.

# References

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# Point of enquiry

Enquiries concerning this chapter should be directed to the relevant leader(s) of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projection’s expert panel on combustion and industry. Please refer to the TFEIP website ([www.tfeip-secretariat.org/](http://www.tfeip-secretariat.org/)) for the contact details of the current expert panel leaders.

1. Guidance on reporting greenhouse gas emissions is provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)