

Pollution from Industrial Buildings
Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing,
Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 90

Buildings Ordinance sections 24 and 28 and Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 90 contain provisions which may be invoked by the Building Authority to tackle the problem of water pollution caused by the discharge of effluent from industrial buildings.

2. Following the issue of the first practice note on this subject in May 1987, more stringent measures have been taken in order to minimize the effects of untreated noxious effluent getting into drainage systems and causing pollution to water-courses and the sea. Such effluent can also seriously impair sewage treatment facilities or damage private or public drains and sewers. There is also the possibility of Government's drains and sewers being overloaded by industrial discharge or of workers being injured while repairing or maintaining drainage systems.

3. In addition to consulting the Environmental Protection Department in cases involving a single occupancy specialized industrial building where the industrial processes to be pursued are known and specific facilities can therefore be allowed for beforehand, the Building Authority will also pay particular attention to plans for 'flatted factory' development regarding general effluent treatment provisions.

4. It is therefore desirable for all authorized persons and registered structural engineers to seek from their clients information on the proposed industrial processes which the intended building occupants will pursue, and ensure that at drainage plan submission stage building uses are clearly stated and adequate provisions are made to treat any noxious effluent. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the drainage proposals under Buildings Ordinance section 16(1)(i).

5. In the case of 'flatted factory' development where multi-occupancy is to be expected, the assumption will be made that the industrial undertakings and places of work will normally discharge effluent of such volume or chemical composition as to call for the provision of drainage facilities other than those required under Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 5(1). Failure to make provision for future effluent discharge may lead to disapproval of the plans under Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 90.

6. For 'flatted factory' development, unless specific facilities are provided, each industrial unit should have an individual drainage outlet, adequately trapped, to receive treated trade effluent from that unit. This outlet must be connected to the foul water system and be of a size indicated below:

Factory usable floor area	Size of outlet
less than 1,000 m ²	100 mm diameter
more than 1,000 m ²	150 mm diameter minimum

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The size of the vertical foul water down pipe will depend upon the number of floors served and should generally be within the range of 150 - 300 mm diameter. These outlets must not be connected to any storm-water drainage system. The outlets can be temporarily sealed at floor level until required by occupants of the unit for the purpose of discharging treated effluent, the assumption being that any effluent identified in Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulation 90 will be treated by the occupants of the unit prior to being discharged into the outlet.

7. The need to provide a petrol interceptor in areas used for the parking of vehicles and the use of grease traps to collect discharge from restaurants is well known. Standard details of these items are attached for general information. The preferred contemporary practice regarding other types of industrial effluent and appropriate methods of treatment is not so standardized or so clear. In case of doubt it may be necessary to obtain the advice of consultants.

8. In addition to tackling the pollution problem at plans submission stage, it is also worth mentioning that more attention will be focused on illegal, insanitary and polluting drains and sewers in future. To this end a unit has already been set up in the Buildings Ordinance Office with specific responsibility for seeking out and dealing with polluting factories. It is in the interest of all concerned that timely steps are taken to protect our environment.



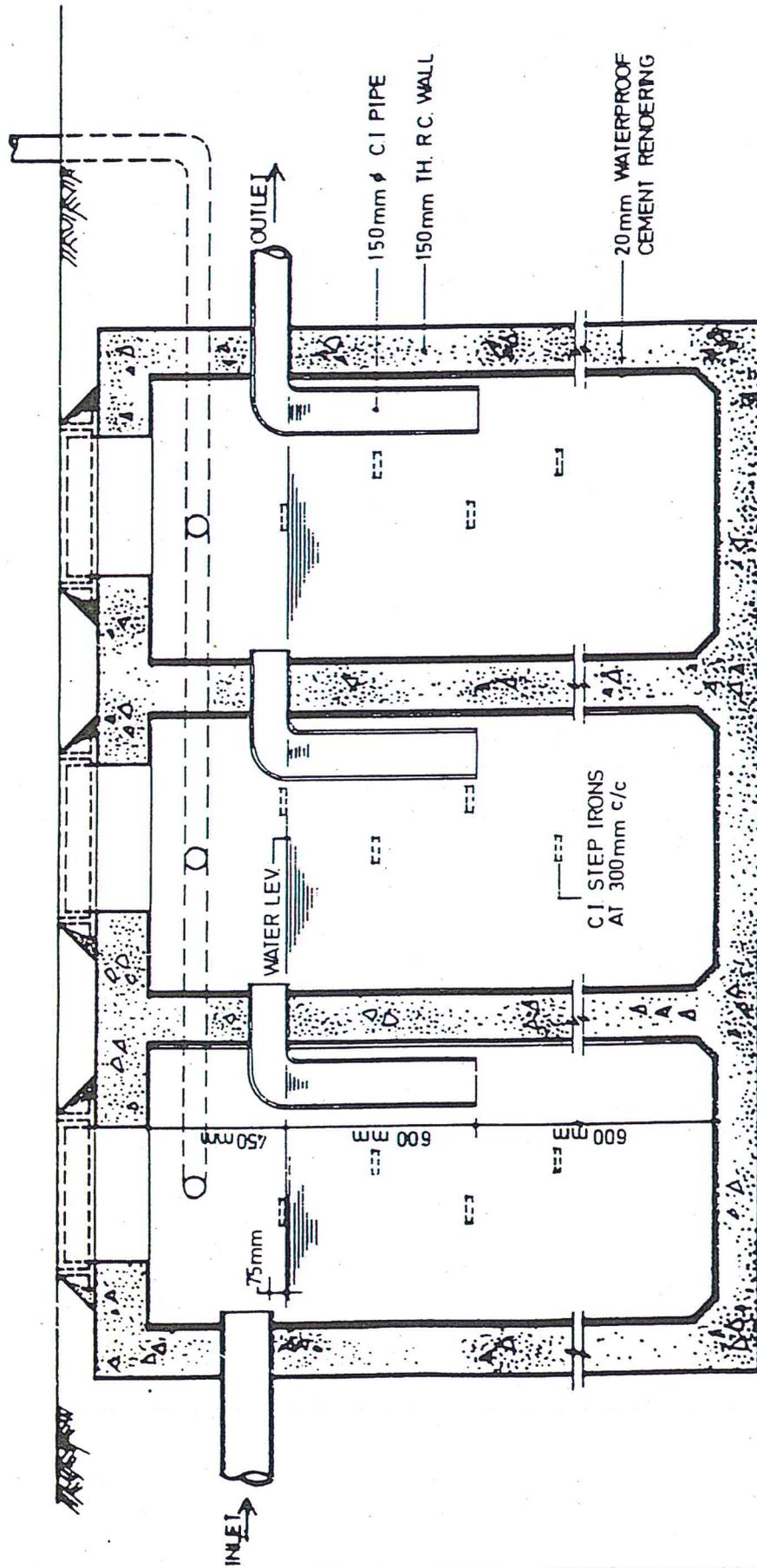
(A.G. Eason)
Building Authority

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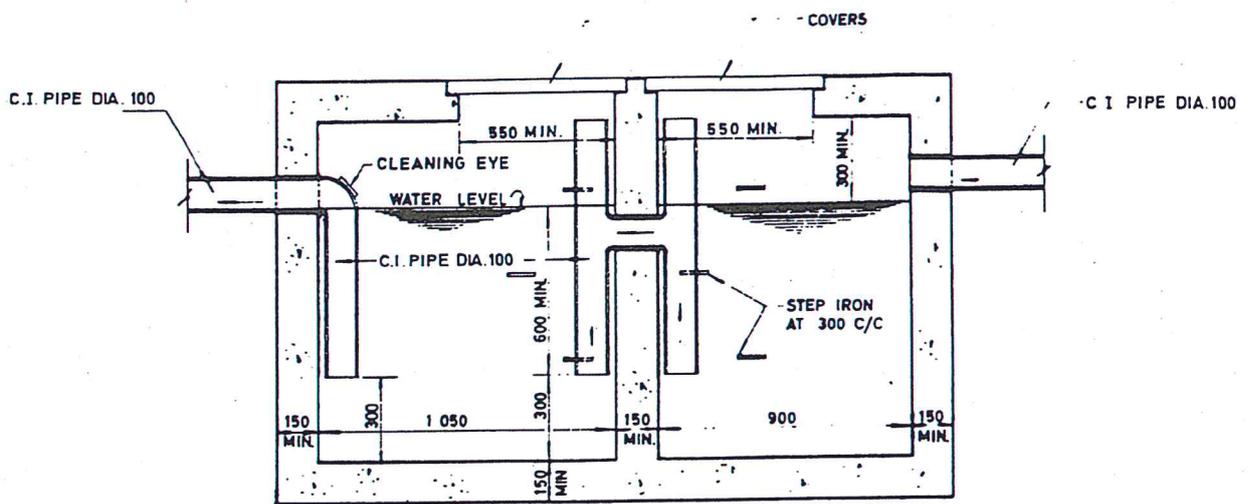
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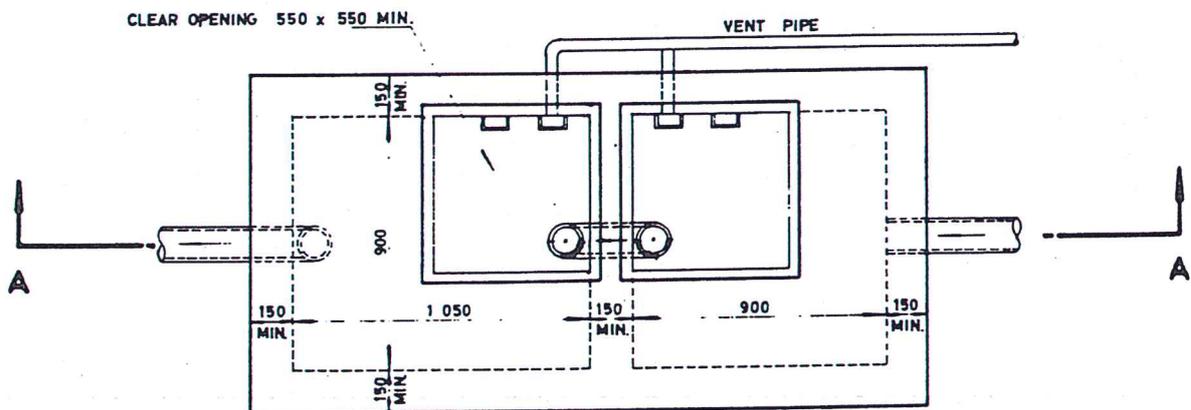


SECTION A-A

DETAIL OF PETROL INTERCEPTOR



SECTION A - A



PLAN

NOTES :-

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES.
2. COVERS
 - (A) TYPE AND GRADE TO SUIT LOCATION.
 - (B) TO BE AS LIGHT AS POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE REMOVAL FOR CLEANING OF TRAP.
 - (C) PERFORATED OR GRATED COVERS MAY BE USED.
3. VENT PIPES MAY BE OMITTED IF GRATED OR PERFORATED COVERS ARE USED.
4. SURFACE WATER TO BE EXCLUDED FROM TRAP BY PROVISION OF KERBS OR CHANNELS.
5. SITTING GREASE TRAP TO BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR INSPECTION AND CLEANING.

GREASE TRAP