

# International Water Services Flushability Group

## **Memorandum of Understanding to establish the International Water Services Flushability Group**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) embodies the commitment between the undersigned organization to establish and participate in the International Water Services Flushability Group (IWSFG). The organizations forming the IWSFG are the regional and national associations or organizations that represent individual water service providers or utilities. Other stakeholders in flushability, including individual service providers or utilities, and groups which support the objectives of IWSFG are welcome to participate as non-voting associate members.

### **Background**

Water services around the world have experienced expensive problems due to the inappropriate flushing of consumer products. These problems include clogged pumps, blocked screens, accumulations in wastewater treatment plants, sewer blockages, an inability to effectively treat the products prior to their release to the environment, and any consequential sewer overflows or back-ups that result in public health and environmental hazards. In addition, utility workers are placed at risk due to these flushed products: risk of physical injury from the process of cutting and pulling products out of mechanical equipment and risk of illness due to the pathogens and contaminants in raw sewage. Water service providers and utilities, and the associations and organizations that represent them, share a common goal to reduce the problems caused by the inappropriate disposal of consumer products down the toilet. They wish to develop a clear position on flushability that will protect water collection and transfer systems, treatment plants, their workers, and the environment.

### **Objective**

The objective of the IWSFG is to develop and maintain clear standards that define suitable criteria for products that can be flushed down toilets and drains, to protect water collection and transfer systems, treatment plants, their workers, and the environment

### **Commitment**

The organizations that are a part of the IWSFG commit to:

- Establishing clear, sustainable global specifications on flushability that can be used by standards bodies or others within each country;
- Supporting organizations in the implementation phases of any agreed flushability specifications;
- Creating an awareness of the IWSFG objectives among non-member water service groups;
- Seeking the collaboration of other stakeholders to protect water services' infrastructure, receiving waters, and the environment from flushed products.

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## **Duration**

Participation in the IWSFG is at-will. This MOU may be modified by mutual consent of the IWSFG voting members. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by an authorized representative of the organization and will remain in effect until modified by mutual consent. Any party may terminate their membership in the IWSFG at any time with written notice to the IWSFG Secretary, and the MOU will remain active among the remaining parties.

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Signature of Authorized Representative

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Date

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Printed Name

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Title

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Organization

IWSFG MOU

Version 03

Effective September 13, 2017