

What Is a "Significant Industrial User"?



A significant industrial user is defined as:


- An industrial user subject to categorical pretreatment standards, known as a categorical industrial user (CIU).
- Any other industrial user that:
 - discharges 25,000 gallons per day or more of process wastewater to the publicly owned treatment works (POTW) (excluding sanitary, noncontact-cooling, and boiler-blowdown wastewater)
 - contributes process wastewater to the POTW which makes up 5 % or more of the average dry-weather hydraulic capacity of the wastewater treatment plant
 - contributes process wastewater to the POTW which makes up 5 % or more of the organic capacity of the wastewater treatment plant
 - or is designated as such by the POTW because the industrial user has a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the wastewater treatment plant's operations and sewer system or for violating any pretreatment requirement

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What Is a "Categorical Industrial User"?

A categorical industrial user is a facility that meets these conditions:

- The industrial activity performed at the facility is regulated by one or more of the federal regulations found in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) Parts [400 - 424](#)  [425 - 699](#) 

- The facility discharges *process* wastewater to a [publicly owned treatment works](#) 
- In the [EPA Pretreatment Categories and Standards](#), the categorical activity is assigned pretreatment limitations, reporting requirements, or both.

If you are a CIU, you must comply with the categorical pretreatment standards specified in the federal regulations and any [local limits](#) established by the POTW that receives your wastewater discharges.