

Flushable Wipes Litigation: Stipulation of Settlement with Kimberly-Clark

The Role of the IWSFG and Their Flushability Specification

Who Is The IWSFG?

- The IWSFG is the International Water Services Flushability Group www.iwsfg.org
- IWSFG members come from 4 Continents
- Membership includes the Technical or Regulatory Directors from 5 National Associations, an Academic Research Scientist, and 4 Utility Members from North America who are WEF and/or NACWA members.
- All the members participated in ISO Technical Committee 224, Workgroup 10 Flushability Specification/ Technical Report
- The North American Members have participated in several direct negotiations with manufacturers regarding their flushability guidance document(s)

THE IWSFG IS NOT A “STANDARDS ORGANIZATION” – So why is their Flushability Specification being used?

- **There are no national or international flushability Standards:** No recognized standards body like ISO, ANSI, ASTM, etc. have a flushability standard.
- The wastewater industry has been attempting to work with wipes manufacturers on a flushability standard since 2012.
- Attempts to work collaboratively with the Wipes manufacturers on an agreed upon specification in ISO or the 4th Edition of the INDA Guidance Document for Flushability ended in failure. Mostly due to disagreements around the disintegration test criteria as it relates to real world situations.
- Only the Manufacturers Trade Association, INDA, has a printed document on

flushability (GD4) prior to IWSFG releasing their publicly available specifications in 2018. All four editions were done without wastewater sector input and were objected to being lenient and not protective of the wastewater infrastructure.

- The IWSFG Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) are currently the most stringent globally.

What’s in the IWSFG Publicly Available Specifications (PAS)?

- IWSFG PAS was available for two (2) rounds of public comment before being finalized and the IWSFG responded to all comments received.
- IWSFG PAS is made up of 3 documents that together describe the criteria that a product should meet to be compatible with being flushed down a toilet.
 - **PAS 1** – Outlines the five criteria for a product to be labelled flushable.
 - **PAS 2** – Provides key definitions used in the specification.
 - **PAS 3** – Details the disintegration test procedures, since this is the only flushability test that is not effectively defined by other published methods.
- PAS 3 Disintegration (Slosh Box) Test is designed to simulate a wipe in the sewer system and have been confirmed in real world situations.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Visit the IWSFG website at: www.iwsfg.org

For more information contact:

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Look for the IWSFG’s **Do not Flush** and **Safe to Flush** symbols!

