

EDANA reasserts effectiveness of industry pushability standard GD4

26 June 2019

EDANA unequivocally reasserts the effectiveness of industry pushability standard GD4 and strongly challenges MCS' claim that it is "insufficient for UK sewers" and that the test methods are not robust enough. GD4 has a history of over 15 years of rigorous testing and regular review that comprehensively demonstrates the compatibility of pushable wipes with wastewater infrastructure. It has proven to be effective in both the test environment and by Water UK's 2017 study of sewer blockages.

Context

The [Marine Conservation Society](#) has challenged industry guidelines on pushability (GD4) as "insufficient" and recommends consumers not to buy wipes produced to this standard and retailers to not stock them. MCS instead advocate the adoption of the 'Water Industry Specification' WIS 4-02-06 to assess the pushability of wipes

Position statement

EDANA unequivocally reasserts the effectiveness of industry pushability standard GD4 and strongly challenges MCS' claim that it is "insufficient for UK sewers" and that the test methods are not robust enough. GD4 has a history of over 15 years of rigorous testing and regular review that comprehensively demonstrates the compatibility of pushable wipes with wastewater infrastructure. It has proven to be effective in both the test environment and by [Water UK's 2017 study](#) of sewer blockages.

Increased awareness leading to the reduction of the improper disposal of non-pushable wipes fats, oils and grease and will have the largest impact in reducing sewer blockages and marine litter.

Reducing sewer blockages and marine litter is a common objective EDANA share, and have discussed repeatedly, with the MCS, Defra and Water UK. We still hold ambitions to work with them and a range of UK stakeholders to reach this goal. This debate on standards should not be a hurdle to that and EDANA is perplexed as to why this is apparently the case.

- EDANA continues to promote GD4 as the proven industry standard for pushable wipes and strongly advocate [the industry guidelines](#) for correct disposal labelling of non-pushable wipes.

