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Abstract: Results of comparative analysis of methods for determination of treated urban wastewater discharge conditions as well as of the legal regulations for the wastewater treatment in selected countries were presented. Particular attention was paid to required level of nutrient removal from the wastewater. Analysis of a variety of approaches to the conditions of wastewater discharge into surface waters across different countries confirmed the complexity of issues related to water quality rating as well as to permissible loads of pollutants introduced into the aquatic environment. The paper defined basic assumptions of existing methodological approaches related to development of treated effluent quality standard. The procedure for establishing conditions for wastewater discharge into recipients in some member states of the European Union and in former Soviet Union countries was introduced. Advantages and disadvantages of applied methodologies were analyzed together with modern trends in development of urban wastewater treatment criteria in different countries. The issues discussed were illustrated with examples of legal requirements concerning required level of municipal wastewater treatment in the EU and non-EU countries.

Keywords: Sewage treatment standards, legal regulations, methods for setting the conditions for wastewater discharge.