



## DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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**To: Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies, Water Companies and licensed water suppliers in England and Wales, and local authorities**

### **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - GUIDELINES FOR DRINKING WATER QUALITY – 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

1. The World Health Organisation published on 4 July 2011 the fourth edition of the Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. The fourth edition consolidates on the third edition published in 2004 expanding on the key concept of water safety planning as the most effective means of securing a safe clean drinking water.
2. The Drinking Water Inspectorate fully endorses the WHO Water Safety Planning approach to the management of drinking water supplies. It advocates that water companies' and licensed water suppliers' Regulation 27<sup>1</sup> and Regulation 28<sup>2</sup> risk assessment methodology should be based on a thorough understanding of the WHO Guidelines.
3. The Inspectorate advises that local authorities should develop full understanding of the WHO Guidelines to support carrying out Regulation 6<sup>3</sup> risk assessments.
4. The fourth edition of the WHO Guidelines can be found at the following link:  
[www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/2011/dwq\\_guidelines/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/dwq_guidelines/en/index.html).

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<sup>1</sup> The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (as amended 2007 and 2010)

<sup>2</sup> The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010

<sup>3</sup> The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009

5. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; John Bourne, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Olwen Minney, Water Management Team, Welsh Assembly Government; Philip Anderson, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Margaret Herron, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Noel Wheatley, Ofwat; Andy Rogers, Environment Agency; Jane Downes, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at the Health Protection Agency.
  
6. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed directly to me using the contact details above.

Yours sincerely



Claire Pollard  
Deputy Chief Inspector  
(Science & Strategy)