

The Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2009

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Ministers give this direction under section 202 of the Water Industry Act 1991^(a) to companies appointed as water undertakers under Chapter I of Part II, or holding a water supply licence granted under Chapter 1A of that part, of that Act.

Citation

1. This Direction may be cited as the Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2009.

Commencement

2. This Direction comes into force on 8th April 2009.

Interpretation

- 1.—(1) In this Direction—

“compliance sample” means a water sample taken to show compliance with a requirement of the Regulations;

“the drinking water quality regulator” means—

- (a) the Secretary of State; or
- (b) in relation to a water undertaker whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales, or a licensed water supplier so far as its licensed operations use the supply system of such a water undertaker, the Welsh Ministers;

“local health board” means a local health board established under section 11 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006^(b);

“the Regulations” means—

- (a) the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000^(c); or
- (b) in relation to a water undertaker whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales, or a licensed water supplier so far as its licensed operations use the supply system of such a water undertaker, the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2001^(d);

“the Act” means the Water Industry Act 1991; and

“working day” means any day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday nor a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971^(e).

- (2) A reference in this Direction to a water supplier is a reference to—

- (a) a water undertaker;
- (b) the holder of a combined licence, within the meaning given by section 17A(6) of the Act; or
- (c) the holder of an appointment referred to in section 7(4)(bb) of the Act,

but, unless the contrary intention appears, does not include the holder of a retail licence (within the meaning given by section 17A(4) of the Act).

- (3) Expressions used in this Direction have the same meaning as in the Regulations.

(a) 1991 c.56.

(b) 2006 No. 42.

(c) S.I. 2000/3184, amended by S.I. 2001/2885, S.I. 2002/2469, S.I. 2002/2035 and S.I. 2007/2734.

(d) S.I. 2001/3911, amended by S.I. 2005/2035 and S.I. 2007/3374.

(e) 1971 c. 80.

How to provide information

4.—(1) Information provided under this Direction must be provided electronically in the format specified by the drinking water quality regulator in writing from time to time.

(2) An obligation of a water supplier to provide information or a document to, or notify, the drinking water quality regulator is satisfied if the water supplier provides the information or document to, or notifies—

- (a) the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water; or
- (b) the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for Wales, in the circumstances referred to in paragraph (3).

(3) The circumstances are that—

- (a) the water supplier is a water undertaker whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales, or a licensed water supplier so far as its licensed operations use the supply system of such a water undertaker; and
- (b) the person appointed as Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for Wales by the Welsh Ministers under section 86(1B)(a) of the Act is not the person appointed as Chief Inspector of Drinking Water by the Secretary of State under section 86(1A) of the Act.

Annual provision of information

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph 5(2), on or before 28th February in each calendar year (beginning with 2010), a water supplier must provide the drinking water quality regulator with the following information—

- (a) for each abstraction point—
 - (i) its designation, the national grid reference of its location and an estimate of the average total daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies,
 - (ii) the designation of each water treatment works that it serves, and
 - (iii) an estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies to each treatment works;
- (b) for each water treatment works—
 - (i) its designation and the national grid reference of its location,
 - (ii) whether the water treated by it is groundwater, surface water or a mixture of the two,
 - (iii) an estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water supplied from it,
 - (iv) the designation of each service reservoir and water supply zone that it serves, and
 - (v) an estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies to each reservoir and zone;
- (c) for each service reservoir—
 - (i) its designation, the national grid reference of its location and its capacity (in megalitres), and
 - (ii) the designation of each water supply zone that it serves;
- (d) for each supply point—
 - (i) its designation, the national grid reference of its location and an estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies, and
 - (ii) the designation of each water supply zone that it serves; and
- (e) for each water supply zone—
 - (i) its designation,
 - (ii) an estimate of the number of people living within it, and

- (iii) the name of each local authority, and each Health Protection Agency or local health board, whose area is wholly or partly within it.

(2) In relation to paragraph 5(1)(a) (abstraction points), the information must first be provided on or before 21st June 2009.

Provision of maps

6.—(1) On or before 28th February in each calendar year (beginning with 2010), a water supplier must provide the drinking water quality regulator with a map or maps at an appropriate scale (ideally 1:50,000) on which is marked—

- (a) the location of each abstraction point, water treatment works and service reservoir;
- (b) the boundaries of each water supply zone; and
- (c) any areas that it does not supply.

(2) Each abstraction point, treatment works, service reservoir and water supply zone must be identified by a unique name or number.

Monthly provision of information

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph 7(3), on or before the 21st day of each month (beginning with 21st April 2009), a water supplier must, in accordance with this paragraph, report to the drinking water quality regulator the results of analysis of all compliance samples taken during the penultimate month (for example, a report in March must be about the samples taken during the previous January).

(2) A report must set out—

- (a) for each abstraction point from which the supplier abstracts water for supply for regulation 4(1) purposes—
 - (i) the number of samples taken under regulation 16A(2) of the Regulations,
 - (ii) for each sample taken at an abstraction point—
 - (aa) the properties, organisms or substances for which the sample was analysed; and
 - (bb) the results of that analysis, and
 - (iii) if the Secretary of State has, by notice under regulation 16A(3) of the Regulations, required the supplier to take and analyse samples in relation to the abstraction point, the results of each such analysis;
- (b) for each water treatment works—
 - (i) the number of samples required, and the number of samples taken, under Part V of the Regulations, and
 - (ii) for each sample taken at a water treatment works—
 - (aa) the designation of the water treatment works;
 - (bb) the date and time the sample was taken;
 - (cc) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in Schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and
 - (dd) whether an authorisation under Part VI of the Regulations applied to the water treatment works;
- (c) for each service reservoir—
 - (i) the number of samples required and the number of samples taken under Part V of the Regulations, and
 - (ii) for each sample taken at a service reservoir—
 - (aa) the designation of the service reservoir;

- (bb) the date and time the sample was taken;
 - (cc) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in Schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and
 - (dd) whether an authorisation under Part VI of the Regulations applied to the service reservoir;
- (d) for each supply point—
- (i) the number of samples required, and the number of samples taken, under Part IV of the Regulations,
 - (ii) for each sample taken at a supply point—
 - (aa) the designation of the supply point;
 - (bb) the date and time the sample was taken;
 - (cc) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in Schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and
 - (dd) whether an authorisation under Part VI of the Regulations applied to the supply point; and
- (e) for each water supply zone—
- (i) the number of samples required, and the number of samples taken, under Part IV of the Regulations,
 - (ii) for each sample taken in a water supply zone—
 - (aa) the designation of the water supply zone;
 - (bb) the date and time the sample was taken;
 - (cc) the postcode or national grid reference of the location from which it was taken;
 - (dd) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in Schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and
 - (ee) whether an authorisation under Part VI of the Regulations applied to the water supply zone.

(3) In relation to paragraph 7(2)(a) (abstraction points), the information must first be provided on or before 21st June 2009.

Provision of monthly information relating to compliance with the Regulations

8.—(1) On or before the 21st day of each calendar month (beginning with 21st April 2009) a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator the results of analysis of any compliance sample taken during the penultimate month (for example, a report in March must be about the samples taken during the previous January) where the analysis showed that the sample exceeded—

- (a) the prescribed concentration or value for a parameter listed in Schedule 1; or
 - (b) the specification of an indicator parameter listed in Schedule 2.
- (2) The report must set out—
- (a) the parameter concerned;
 - (b) the result and the extent to which the prescribed concentration or value or specification was exceeded;
 - (c) details of the investigations carried out under Part VI of the Regulations; and
 - (d) whether the results exceeded an authorisation under Part VI of the Regulations.

Provision of information—events, incidents, emergencies etc.

- 9.—(1) A water supplier must notify the drinking water quality regulator of—
- (a) the occurrence of any event which, because of its effect or likely effect on the quality or sufficiency of water supplied by the supplier, gives rise, or is likely to give rise, to a significant risk to the health of persons to whom the water is supplied (including any event notified by the supplier to a local authority, Health Protection Agency or local health board under regulation 35 of the Regulations);
 - (b) any other matter relating to the supply of water that—
 - (i) in the opinion of the supplier, is of national significance; or
 - (ii) has attracted or, in the opinion of the supplier, is likely to attract significant local or national publicity; or
 - (iii) has caused or, in the opinion of the supplier, is likely to cause significant concern to persons to whom water is supplied; and
 - (c) any reports of disease that might be associated with water supplied by the supplier.
- (2) The notification must be—
- (a) given as soon as possible after the event or matter has come to the supplier’s attention, by telephone or other appropriate means; and
 - (b) confirmed in writing (including fax or electronic mail) no later than 3 working days after compliance with sub-paragraph (a).
- (3) The notification must include—
- (a) particulars of the event or matter;
 - (b) an assessment of its effect or likely effect on the quality or sufficiency of water supplied by the supplier;
 - (c) an estimate of the population affected and whether particularly sensitive water users such as hospitals, schools, or food manufacturers are affected;
 - (d) any information available about the cause or likely cause of the event or matter;
 - (e) particulars of the action taken or proposed to be taken to inform and protect customers and to rectify the situation, and an estimate of when supplies are likely to be back to normal;
 - (f) a list of any persons (other than customers of the supplier) notified of the event or matter, and a copy of any notice issued to customers and to the press about the event or matter; and
 - (g) the number of customers of the supplier who complained about the quality of their water supply and—
 - (i) if there are 50 or fewer such complainants, a list of their names, addresses and telephone numbers; or
 - (ii) if there are more than 50 complainants, a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least the first 50 of them to report the problem to the supplier;
- (4) Within 20 working days of the date of the notification, or such longer period as the drinking water quality regulator allows, the supplier must submit all relevant information about the event or matter including—
- (a) any information necessary to supplement the information given in accordance with paragraph 9(1);
 - (b) if samples were taken in connection with the event or matter—
 - (i) particulars of the time at which the samples were taken,
 - (ii) the places from which the samples were taken, and
 - (iii) the results of the analysis of the samples;

- (c) a copy of any report or advice provided to the supplier by its medical, scientific or technical advisers, a local authority or the health protection agency;
- (d) an assessment of the effectiveness of the action taken in respect of the event or matter, and of the adequacy of arrangements for liaison with the local authority, the health protection agency, the Environment Agency, the emergency services and the public, as the case required;
- (e) a statement of any lessons learned and of any proposals, if any, for further action that the water supplier considers necessary or desirable in the light of the event or matter;
- (f) a map or plot showing the location of all complaints received and all samples taken in connection with the event; and
- (g) any other information about the event or matter that the supplier considers relevant.

Provision of annual information on consumer contacts about drinking water quality

10.—(1) On or before 21st February in each calendar year (beginning with 2010), a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator about each contact about drinking water quality that the water supplier received from any of its consumers during the previous calendar year.

(2) The report must set out, for each water supply zone—

- (a) the number of consumer contacts, according to their nature and type;
- (b) the total population of the water supply zone;
- (c) the rate of contact per thousand population for each type of contact; and
- (d) the overall rate of contact per thousand population.

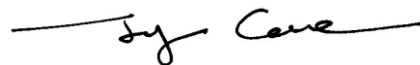
(3) For the purposes of this paragraph, “water supplier” includes the holder of a retail licence.

(4) The holder of a retail licence complies with its obligations under paragraph (1) if it secures that the details about each consumer contact required by that paragraph are reported by the water supplier from which the holder takes its wholesale supply of water.

Revocation of the Water Undertakers (Information) Direction 2004

11. The Water Undertakers (Information) Direction 2004 is revoked.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers:



Professor Jeni Colbourne MBE
Chief Inspector of Drinking Water

08 April 2009