



GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS 2016 IN ENGLAND AND THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS 2010 (as amended) IN WALES

The Regulations

Part 1 – General

Regulation 1: Citation, commencement and application

Regulation 2: Interpretation

Note: In all sections covering the regulations themselves, the main paragraph reference numbers relate directly to the relevant English regulation number. Where the Welsh regulation number is different to the equivalent English regulation, the Welsh regulation is referred to alongside in square brackets thus: [].

Regulation 1 - Citation, commencement and application

1.1 England:

- 1.1.1 The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (the English regulations) came into force on 27 June 2016
- 1.1.2 The regulations apply to water suppliers based wholly, or mainly in England, including areas supplied by those companies that are in Wales. They also apply to inset appointments operating and supplying water in England. Regulation 34, which covers the requirements to maintain a public record, applies also to retail service providers.

1.2 Wales:

- 1.2.1 The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 came into force on 20 April 2010.
- 1.2.2 The Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 came into force on 14 April 2016.
- 1.2.3 The regulations apply to water suppliers based wholly, or mainly in Wales, including areas supplied by those companies that are in England. They also apply to inset appointments operating and supplying water in Wales. Regulation 34, which covers the requirements to maintain a public record, also applies to retail service providers.

Regulation 2 - Interpretation

- 2.1 Regulation 2 lists definitions of some of the terms used in the regulations.
- 2.2 The 2016 regulations include one new definition:
 - 2.2.1 Indicative Dose (ID) – previously referred to as Total Indicative Dose (TID). In practice, and in the context of the drinking water quality standards, the two terms mean the same.
- 2.3 **Definition of a service reservoir.** Since the previous guidance was published in 2010, the Inspectorate has provided updated guidance to companies on the definition of a service reservoir:
 - 2.3.1 Regulation 2(3) specifies the definition of a service reservoir, which, for the purposes of these regulations, is any structure in the public supply network that is used for storage of treated water prior to onward supply to consumers, either directly, or via further service reservoir(s) and/or booster pumping station(s).
 - 2.3.2 This is a regulatory definition which is not open to interpretation.
 - 2.3.3 The definition categorically **excludes** tanks used for storage of treated water which are situated on water treatment works sites.

- 2.3.4 The definition includes temporary structures such as static tanks or tankers **that are connected** to the distribution system and are being used for storage of treated water prior to onward supply to consumers.
- 2.3.5 In 2015 the Inspectorate carried out a technical audit of break pressure tanks and other small tanks connected to distribution systems. The findings indicated that, in most circumstances, break pressure tanks provide some storage, and consequently fall within the definition of a service reservoir. Therefore break pressure tanks and other tanks connected to the system, irrespective of size, should be classified as service reservoirs and sampled in accordance with the requirements of regulation 14. In practice this means that all tanks apart from very small tanks with a minimal retention time must be so designated.